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FBIS-NES-95-204 CONTENTS *23 October 1995*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Reportedly Continues To Expel Palestinians *[AFP]* 1
    Egyptian Border Police Confirm Report *[Jericho VOP]* 1
Syrian Ship To Collect Palestinians From Cyprus *[Nicosia Radio]* 1
League Confirms Libya Gives Up UN Council Seat *[Cairo International]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Hundreds Demonstrate in Bethlehem for Prisoners *[Jerusalem TV]* 2
PPSF To Participate in Autonomy Elections *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Hamas Backs Away From Founding Party *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Oct]* 2
Abu-Marzuq Sends Letter to PNC's al-Za'nun *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 23 Oct]* 3
Hamas Abroad Said To Have Little Interest in Case *[AL-MASHRIQ 30 Oct]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual-Chirac Meeting at UN Canceled *[Algiers TV]* 5
    Commentary on Canceled Meeting *[Algiers TV]* 5
Presidential Election Campaign Officially Launched *[Algiers Radio]* 6
PRA Leader Boukrouh Launches Election Campaign *[Algiers TV]* 7
    Election Speech by Boukrouh *[Algiers Radio]* 8
    Election Interview With Boukrouh *[Algiers Radio]* 8
HAMAS Leader Nahnah's Election Broadcast *[Algiers TV]* 9
    Broadcast 'on Behalf of' Nahnah *[Algiers Radio]* 10
RCD Candidate Sadi Calls For Peace *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Car Bomb Kills 8, Wounds 82 in Reliziane *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Car Bomb Explodes in Eastern Algiers *[Paris TV]* 11
Security Services Kill 26 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Major Oil Field Found Near Border With Libya *[Paris International]* 11

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Iraq, India, NAM Conference *[MENA]* 11
Mubarak Called 'Scared Rat' After UN Cancellation *[AFP]* 12
Defense Minister Returns From U.S., Comments *[MENA]* 12
Ruling Party Denies Arrest of Rival Candidate *[MENA]* 13
MB Members' Military Trial To Resume *[MENA]* 13
'Wanted' Jihad Members Released to Authorities *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Oct]* 13
'Fundamentalist' Editor To Be Tried *[AFP]* 14
U.S. Proposal To Move Embassy to Jerusalem Criticized *[MENA]* 14
Croat Envoy Comments on Islamic Group's Threat *[AFP]* 14
Naval Forces Commander on Maneuvers, Improvements *[MENA]* 15

Libya

Official Denies Plans for 'Arafat Visit *[JANA]* 15

Government ‘Secretly’ Funding Pollard Release Group *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Olmert Sees Uncontrollable Protest Over Jerusalem *[HA'ARETZ 22 Oct]* 29
Knesset No-Confidence Vote Set for 30 Oct *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Third Way Said To Make Decision for Knesset Run *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Janin Pullout To Begin 13 Nov, Ahead of Schedule *[HA'ARETZ 22 Oct]* 30

JORDAN

Iraqi Vice President Briefs King on ‘New Policy’ *[AL-MAJD 23 Oct]* 31
Energy Minister Views Oil Ties With Iraq *[AL-DUSTUR 22 Oct]* 31
Minister on West Bankers’ Passports, Camps *[Amman Radio]* 32
Chief Editor, Correspondent To Face Prosecution *[AL-DUSTUR 22 Oct]* 33

LEBANON

President al-Hirawi Addresses Nation *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Libya Asks Arab Defense Council To Meet on South *[Beirut Radio]* 36
    Buwayz Opposes Arab Meeting *[VOL]* 36
Minister Urges Unity, Support for ‘Resistance’ *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Nasrallah: Syria-Israel Track Not To Affect ‘Resistance’ *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Nasrallah Wants Israel Out of Border Strip *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37
Hizballah Denies Link Between Talks, Fighting *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Hizballah Radio: Israel Considering ‘Pulling Out’ *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Hizballah Officials on ‘Resistance’ Attacks, U.S. *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Hizballah Leader Says Ready for ‘Any Aggression’ *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 39
    More on ‘Resistance’ Warnings *[VOL]* 39
Tension, Fighting Continue in South 39
    Israeli Shelling Reported *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 39
    Further on Shelling *[Beirut Radio]* 39
    ‘Fierce’ Clashes Reported *[VOL]* 40
    ‘Resistance’ Attack Reported *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
SLA Intercepts ‘Terrorist’ Infiltrators *[Voice of the South]* 40
Army Commander Inspects Units in South *[Beirut Radio]* 40

SYRIA

Rabin, Peres Statements on Talks Criticized *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Khaddam, al-Shar Participate in NAM Conference 42
    Meet Various Counterparts *[Damascus Radio]* 42
    Khaddam Meets Arab Expatriates *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Extension of Lebanese President’s Term Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Radio: Damascus Not To Concede ‘One Grain’ of Golan *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Government’s Peace Position Reiterated *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Israeli Promises of Welfare, Peace Mocked *[SANA]* 45
Commentary Reiterates Adherence to Peace Constants *[Damascus Radio]* 45
U.S. State Department Cited ‘Essential’ Syrian Role *[Damascus Radio]* 45
UN 50th Anniversary Celebrations Observed *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Information Minister Briefs Japanese Press on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Algerian Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Comparison of al-Asad Interview 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Forces, Taleban Clash in Kabul 48

    Fighters Bomb Taleban Positions *[Kabul Radio]* 48
    'Over 400' Taleban Said Dead *[Kabul Radio]* 48
    Report on Diplomats Leaving Kabul Denied *[IRNA]* 48
    Envoy in Tehran Comments on Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 48
    Taleban Rocket Hits Hospital, Kills 14 *[Tehran Radio]* 49
    Rabbani Says Kabul Ready for Cooperation *[Kabul Radio]* 49
    Government Forces 'Enjoy High Combat Morale' *[Kabul Radio]* 49
    Taleban Spokesman Denies Rocket Attack *[IRNA]* 49
    UN Envoy Mestiri Extends Visit in Kabul *[IRNA]* 50
    Tehran Envoy: Rabbani Ready To 'Relinquish Power' *[Tehran Radio]* 50
    Taleban Plane Reportedly Bombs Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 50
    Taleban Offensive Said Repulsed *[Kabul Radio]* 50
    50 Taleban Reported Killed in Counteroffensive *[Kabul Radio]* 51
    Second Round of Rabbani-Mestiri Talks Held *[Kabul Radio]* 51
    More on Mestiri-Rabbani Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 51
    High State Council Holds Session *[Kabul Radio]* 51
    Kabul Bombed for Second Consecutive Day *[Hong Kong AFP]* 52
    IRNA on Rabbani Power Transfer Offer 52

Iran

Va'ezi Summons Argentine Envoy on 'Terrorist Attempt' *[IRNA]* 53
    Commentary Views Assassination Attempt *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Radio Comments on Anti-U.S. Rally on Okinawa *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Paper Discusses 'Failure' of U.S. Embargo *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 14 Oct]* 54
U.S Seen Capitalizing on Elections in Iraq *[RESALAT 11 Oct]* 55
Editorial on Iraqi Suffering Due to UN Sanctions *[TEHRAN TIMES 15 Oct]* 56
Sheykholeslam: Israeli Threats 'Empty' *[IRNA]* 56
Grachev Said To Visit Iran in 'Near Future' *[IRNA]* 57
Official Questions Azerbaijan's Legitimacy *[AFP]* 57
Caller Asks About Afghanistan's Taleban Group *[SALAM 16 Oct]* 57
Radio on NATO 'Crisis' After Claes Resignation *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Velayati Views Future Role of UN *[IRNA]* 58
Daily on New Gubernatorial Appointments *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 16 Oct]* 59
Caller: 'Open' Atmosphere Can Help Solve Problems *[SALAM 15 Oct]* 60
Khamenei Addresses Crowd in Gonbad-e Karvus *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Commentary on Rafsanjani's Friday Prayer Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 62

Pakistan

Senator Demands 'Clear Statement' on Arrests *[THE NATION 22 Oct]* 62
16 of 36 Arrested Army Officers Stripped of Ranks *[Delhi Radio]* 63

Sri Lanka

Military Mounts Offensive To Take Tiger Heartland *[AFP]* 63
Defense Ministry Reports on Operation Riviresa *[DAILY NEWS]* 64
Army Gains in North, Captures Hospital *[AFP]* 65
Military Spokesman: 'LTTE Cannot Stop Us' *[LANKAPUVATH]* 65
Minister: Swift Steps Taken To Prevent Violence *[LANKAPUVATH]* 66
Tamil Rebels Hack 64 Villagers to Death in East *[AFP]* 67
    Reporter Details Massacre *[LANKAPUVATH]* 67
    Colombo Tense; Mobs Lynch 2 Tamils *[AFP]* 69
LTTE Attack on Colombo Oil Depot Reported *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69
    Parliament Briefed on Oil Fires, Attack *[Colombo International]* 70

    Fires Extinguished *[Colombo International]* 71
    Prime Minister Calls For Calm *[DAILY NEWS]* 71
    Official: Fuel To Be Freely Available *[DAILY NEWS]* 71
    Daily Views Attack on Oil Installations *[DAILY NEWS]* 72
Sporadic Gun Battles Erupt in Colombo *[AFP]* 73
President Urges People To Act With Restraint *[Colombo International]* 73
    'Text' of Statement on LTTE Danger *[DAILY NEWS]* 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Reportedly Continues To Expel Palestinians

NC2010133295 Paris AFP in English
1151 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Oct 20 (AFP)—Libya has forced more Palestinians to leave the country in violation of an agreement with Egypt that it would end the expulsions, the PLO representative to the Arab League said Friday [20 October].

Muhammad Subayh, the PLO representive, said around 40 people in eight Palestinian families had arrived at a makeshift camp housing 1,000 refugees in a desert no man's land between Egypt and Libya's border in the past two days.

"Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has not yet implemented the October 6 accord with Egypt on halting the expulsions of Palestinians," he told AFP.

"Since that date, dozens of Palestinians have continued to arrive in small groups in no man's land at the Egyptian-Libyan border."

Egyptian border police confirmed Friday that the expulsions were continuing."More than 200 Palestinians have arrived at the deportees camp since October 6," said one official.

"Since that date, 800 others have been able to cross Egypt to go to the Gaza Strip," he said, adding that they had Israeli documents enabling them to enter the autonomous Palestinian territory.

Subayh urged Egypt to renew its efforts to persuade al-Qadhdhafi to honour the agreement. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Border Police Confirm Report

JN2010162495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's representative at the Arab League, has asserted that Libya continues to expel Palestinians from Libyan Arab territory despite the agreement to halt these expulsions. He added that new groups of refugees arrived at the Egyptian-Libyan border today.

For their part, Egyptian police at the al-Sallum border post confirmed that the expulsions have continued, adding that approximately 200 Palestinians have been expelled by Libyan authorities since 6 October [date of agreement to halt expulsions].

Syrian Ship To Collect Palestinians From Cyprus

NC2210145495 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek
1130 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More than 250 Palestinians will leave the passenger ferry "Contessa M" to go aboard the Syrian ship "Faysal Express," which will carry them to Syria.

A Syrian representative in Nicosia said another Syrian ship will arrive at Larnaca this afternoon to take the rest of the Palestinians, who have Syrian passports.

This morning officers of the merchant marine department inspected the "Faysal Express," which arrived in Larnaca yesterday, to find out if it met the security conditions needed for the transportation of the Palestinians. The officers demanded that some holes be closed and that some other repairs take place before the ship leaves.

Communications and Works Minister Adhamos Adhamidhis, who visited the passenger ferry "Contessa M" this morning, stressed that the Syrian ship will leave only if and when security conditions are met.

It is expected that another 13 Palestinians, who have Jordanian passports, will leave by air today for Jordan.

League Confirms Libya Gives Up UN Council Seat

NC2110090395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0610 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, head of the Arab League office at the United Nations, in New York, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, head of the Arab League office at the United Nations: Before I proceed to evaluate with you the achievements of the United Nations and issues being raised regarding correcting or restructuring this international organization, could we discuss the issue of Libya's acceptance as a member of the international Security Council? What has taken place with regard to this matter?

[Abu-al-Nasr] As you probably know, Libya's nomination was backed by the Arab League and the OAU for the position of the Arab member who will assume a seat on the Council for two years. However, in view of current political circumstances, Libya believes it is better for it to exchange its nomination with the Arab Republic of Egypt and that Egypt should take its place during the next elections. Libya will then take Egypt's place at a later time, a few years later. This was agreed upon in principle between the foreign ministers of the two countries. I believe there will not be a problem. Therefore, to a great extent, we will be securing continued Arab presence on the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Hundreds Demonstrate in Bethlehem for Prisoners

TA2110185595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hundreds of Palestinians demonstrated outside the Bethlehem offices of the International Red Cross today, demanding the release of all Palestinian security prisoners held in Israeli prisons. The demonstration was organized by members of the Palestinian prisoners association, with the support of Palestinian Authority officials. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports that most of the demonstrators were relatives of prisoners who have not yet been released.

The demonstrations were followed by small-scale disturbances. Youths hurled stones at the security forces but were dispersed by the soldiers. There were no casualties.

PPSF To Participate in Autonomy Elections

JN2210153395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has decided to take part in the upcoming Palestinian legislative elections.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, minister of labor and PPSF secretary general, termed the elections an historic opportunity for all sectors of the Palestinian people, regardless of their political inclinations, to exercise their democratic right on their territory. Ghawshah stressed the need to form a national committee comprising all political forces to examine the Elections Law before it is approved by the Council of Ministers of the National Authority.

Hamas Backs Away From Founding Party

MM2010143895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 95 pp 1,4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Hamas Backtracks on Political Party, Forms Islamic Front With Open Membership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Muhammad al-Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said that the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has abandoned the idea of forming a political party in the self-rule territories and replaced it with an open-membership "Islamic front" whose formation will be announced soon.

This was confirmed by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, the movement's official spokesman in the Gaza Strip.

Al-Nazzal told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, in a telephone interview from his office in Amman and in response to a question on the formation of a political party in the name of Hamas, that "the Hamas leadership has decided that the issue of affiliation of Hamas members and cadres to a political party is a personal matter and not compulsory, meaning that the party will be a party independent from Hamas, and its membership will not be open to Hamas members only but also to independent Islamic figures."

He added: "Therefore, the announcement of the formation of this party will depend on the individuals who will form it and not on Hamas."

Dr. al-Zahhar told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, however, that "what is being formed is a broad Islamic front, open to all those who want to serve the Islamic cause." He added: "I believe that everything is ready for announcing this front" but refused to go into details and give names of those working on its formation.

On whether this front will participate in the Palestinian elections held under the terms of the Oslo agreement, al-Zahhar said: "This depends on the front's members," but refused to reveal whether he will personally join this front.

Meanwhile, al-Nazzal denied that this is a new position for Hamas, saying: "There has simply been some mix-up in the media between a move by Hamas cadres to form a party and Hamas' official position, which reaffirms that it will not change into a political party."

Al-Nazzal said that "the participation of Hamas elements in this front will not affect their membership of the movement. We have said all along that it is a jihad movement formed to fight the occupation. It acts according to this plan and will not limit itself to one line, but several lines, including military action."

Meanwhile, a Hamas delegation from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is being formed to participate in the expected Khartoum dialogue between the movement and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. The names of Dr. al-Zahhar and Sayyid Samih were announced among those representing the Gaza Strip.

Al-Nazzal said, however, that neither a date nor a venue for the talks has been agreed yet, but he expects them to be held in Khartoum in response to the invitation issued by Dr. Hasan al- Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front. Al-Nazzal added: "We still have not received the PNA's official acceptance. What we hear is conveyed and dealt with through the media. We are still waiting for the PNA's response to the invitation conveyed by the mediation delegation."

Abu-Marzuq Sends Letter to PNC's al-Za'nun

JN2210165095 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 2

[Exclusive report]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MUHARRIR obtained a copy of a letter from Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], who is currently detained in the United States, to Palestine National Council [PNC] [acting] Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib. In the letter, Abu-Marzuq urged President Yasir 'Arafat or any other Arab side to interfere to secure his release.

The importance of this letter is that it shows Abu-Marzuq is no longer wagering on Hamas after a growing conflict within the movement over who will succeed him. Following is the complete text of the letter:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Esteemed brother Abu-al-Adib, may God preserve you. God's peace and blessings be upon you.
I send you my heartfelt greetings, beseeching God to preserve you wherever you go. God always listens and responds.
My esteemed brother: As you know, I have recently been placed under observation; I was arrested on 25 July 1995 without any charge. I resided here for a long time. I was here in January this year. They changed their attitude toward me several times without any apparent reason or negative indications about me. Finally, Israel interfered, and they detained me for trial. The reasons they stated were taken from a brother, who is serving a five-year prison term there. The things he mentioned are meaningless. He always says: "I was told, he told me, another person told me," and other similar expressions, which he knows are incorrect. His lawyer told my lawyer, Stanley, that he along with Muhammad Salah, who is accused by Israel, would help me end the problem. The problem does not lie in the strength or weakness of the case. Legal procedures here take years. This means that I will remain in prison a long time.

Esteemed brother: In fact, I do not know any solution other than the political solution. You can do something in this regard. Approximately one month is left for such a solution, and you know better than me what to do. You can do something through brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir] 'Arafat or any other Arab side like Jordan. You can also talk to the U.S. Administration itself. But after a certain time, nobody can do anything because the legal procedures will take their course.

My big brother Abu-al-Adib, I hope that the lawyer will be able to see you and arrange for a visit. In brief, this is what I want to explain. I hope God will solve the problem at your hands. Please accept my best regards. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Abu-Marzuq

Well-informed Islamic sources told AL- MUHARRIR that there are acute differences within the Hamas command on the question of who will defend Abu-Marzuq. These differences clearly manifested themselves last Saturday when the Hamas Movement said it intends to appoint the U.S. law office of Cashers and Trevor [name as transliterated] to defend Abu-Marzuq instead of his Jewish lawyer. On the evening of the same day, the Hamas command denied the report. This shows that some within the command want to keep Abu-Marzuq in prison until his replacement is elected.

The controversy over who will replace Dr. Abu-Marzuq was one of the prominent issues preoccupying the Hamas command over the past few weeks. Two principal members of the political bureau are competing for this post. They are Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Hamas Movement, and 'Imad al-'Alami, the Hamas representative in Tehran.

AL-MUHARRIR also learned that PNC Acting Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, a lawyer by profession who occupied a judicial post in Gaza with the task of deciding on the extradition of criminals, had prepared a brief on the legal aspects of Dr.Abu-Marzuq's case. However, the Hamas Movement which received the brief did not send it to the lawyer charged with the case. When the lawyer read the brief during his recent meeting with Al-Za'nun in Washington, he wondered why he was not given the brief earlier, and said he hopes that Salim al- Za'nun would help defend Dr. Abu-Marzuq.

Informed Palestinian sources told AL-MUHARRIR that Salim al- Za'nun wanted to visit Dr. Abu-Marzuq in prison. However, some of his close aides advised him against this so that the Zionist lobby would not exploit the visit to revive the talk about the PLO's involvement in terrorism. Therefore, he was content to exchange letters. The sources stressed that 'Arafat also said he will respond to Abu-Marzuq and that he will adopt his case.

Hamas Abroad Said To Have Little Interest in Case

JN2110141795 Amman AL-MASHRIQ in Arabic 23-30 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, [official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas], has distributed a statement to some newspapers and writers over the past weekend, asking them to intervene for releasing Hamas Political Bureau Head Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, who has been in a U.S. prison since 25 July this year.

This move comes in the wake of several Palestinian Authority initiatives seeking the release of the Hamas leader. The latest initiative was a letter delivered to King Husayn by Palestine National Council Acting Speaker Salim al-Za'nun from the family of Abu-Marzuq and Islamic centers in the United States, asking him to intervene with the U.S. Administration to release the Palestinian leader.

AL-MASHRIQ has learned from sources close to Abu-al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun] that His Majesty King Husayn promised he would do all he could in this respect and told al-Za'nun to communicate this to Abu-Marzuq's family and the Islamic centers in the United States.

Meanwhile, AL-MASHRIQ has learned that Jordanian Senate Member Kamil al-Sharif is holding contacts with Crown Prince Hasan's office on the issue in complete coordination with al-Za'nun.

Various reports mention that the Hamas leadership abroad, which had criticized Abu-Marzuq for appointing a Jewish lawyer as defense counsel, is not showing too much interest in the issue of the arrest of the movement's political bureau head, who, according to the same reports, had left the region for the United States following the exacerbation of his political disagreement with the more radical Hamas leaders abroad. Reports also talk of a power struggle among the Hamas leaders abroad on Abu-Marzuq's successor, and that the most prominent candidates are Ibrahim Ghawshah, 'Imad al-'Alami, and Muhammad Nazzal.

Algeria

Zeroual-Chirac Meeting at UN Canceled

LD2210213595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The official spokesman of the presidency announced today in New York that the president of the republic, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, has decided to cancel his meeting with French President Jacques Chirac.

Regarding the cancellation of the meeting between President Liamine Zeroual and Jacques Chirac, the official spokesman and diplomatic adviser for the presidency, Mihoub Mihoubi, made a statement in New York the text of which follows:

[Begin Mihoubi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The personal participation of Mr. Liamine Zeroual, head of state, in the biggest gathering in history of heads of states and governments on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations stems from his strong determination to fully carry out the duties dictated by his supreme mission, which will enable Algeria to preserve its distinguished position in the fold of nations.

The significance of this trip, which took the head of state to New York after having participated in the 11th summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Cartagena, comes under the chapter of the comprehensive national corrective movement being waged by the state with determination and courage on all the political, economic, and security levels. This is what Mr. Liamine Zeroual endeavored to explain and stress to a large number of representatives of the Algerian community residing in the United States.

On the other hand, it has been the custom during these occasions that bilateral meetings are held between heads of states, particularly those whose relations require some clarification and momentum at the highest level in view of the state and prospects of these relations. Therefore, President Liamine Zeroual has had a series of meetings with many of his counterparts, as has been the case so far in New York [as heard].

From this premise, the planned meeting between Presidents Liamine Zeroual and Jacques Chirac was precisely based on this context, away from any other considerations.

It is worth recalling, on the other hand, that the principle of holding a meeting between the Algerian and French presidents on the sidelines of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations had been agreed by the two countries' foreign ministers at the end of July in Tabarka, on the basis of a proposal made by Mr. de Charette. This agreement was followed by the necessary measures taken through official channels, with a view to preparing this meeting and setting up its agenda, at a time when some official and unofficial French statements were alleging that it was Algeria which had initiated the request for this meeting and that the request was still being examined.

The Algerian authorities, who fully understand the lessons learned from the variations of political dialogue between the two countries in the last 33 years, and the true or fabricated restrictions from the French side, have refrained from falling into the game of the uproar raised on the other shore of the Mediterranean, even when this uproar went beyond the limit of an information conspiracy to feed on biased and at times hostile statements against Algeria [sentence as heard].

However, the Algerian state has, in a calm way, put forward all the necessary clarifications and warnings through the appropriate channels and continued at the same time to do everything possible to ensure the conditions for the success of an ordinary meeting between the two heads of state to be held according to firmly established diplomatic conventions and customs; a meeting whose manner, content, and expected results cannot be unilaterally defined without embroiling them in vulgar diplomacy [sentence as heard].

The continuation of unilateral positions and the stepping up of public statements which may be considered as harming the honor and sovereignty of the Algerian people has led to a situation which is no longer propitious for holding the meeting planned between the Algerian and French presidents.

Consequently, the Algerian side put an end to the contacts in connection with this meeting. The head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, is continuing his activities on the bilateral and multilateral levels according to plan. Thank you. [end recording]

Commentary on Canceled Meeting

LD2310003395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you gathered from the statement of Mr. Mihoub Mihoubi [official spokesman of the Presidency], the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, cancelled the meeting he was scheduled to hold in New York with the president of the French Republic, Mr. Jacques Chirac.

Algeria intended to make this meeting, with all responsibility and far removed from any exaggeration, an important appointment for a sincere and calm clarification of matters and an opportunity for enabling the assessment of Algerian-French relations, which have been burdened by differences that are harmful to the clear interests of the two countries. Within this endeavor, the protection of these joint interests, mutual respect, and the requirements of states' sovereignty on an equal footing cannot be abused.

Despite this, and following the fact that the conditions for organizing the meeting were made available and announced by the French authorities, the meeting of Presidents Liamine Zeroual and Jacques Chirac constituted a topic of political interpretations reflecting bad intentions through vengeful campaigns and acts which show hatred of foreigners. Moreover, official circles in the French state apparatus themselves, whether they disclosed or did not disclose their identity, believed that they had the duty to or could carry out reactionary moves. In the end, terrorist threats of revenge were made in an attempt to impose a reconsideration or a submission, and these constituted a pretext or a support for these reactions.

A would-be meeting dictated simply by the logic of relations between one state and another has been used through calculations and rigging for purposes which are explicit sometimes and implicit most times. Moreover, the game of exaggerated accusations and over-explanations and over-justifications has made the real objectives of this meeting, which was due to take place, become stated in a wrong or distorted way.

Algeria itself considered this meeting a means to explain things which include the following. First, the Algerian-French summit, which was scheduled to take place in New York, was in response to a French initiative. Considering this and contrary to what has been said or written, it was not possible for Algeria at any rate to agree on a meeting which was undervalued or strongly insisted on. The challenges of Algerian-French relations deserve better attention as are common interests which charge them a better fate [as heard]. Our country and people do not receive lessons or orders in any shape or form from any source. The era of care and protective pity is over. The state of Algeria is responsible and accountable only before the Algerian people, which is the master of its fate.

The Algerian people have chosen a democratic future. The state of Algeria, operating on their behalf, is working toward building a democratic future. This in itself suffices. Hence, there is no need for outside executives [as heard] to replace others we are still paying a high price for allegedly opening democratic doors in Algeria which are already wide open.

Algeria also has been leading, for nearly two years, a national action to come out of the crisis whose rectification has reached its final phase. In a few weeks time the Algerian people will elect the republic's president. He will undertake the completion of the rectification process which will inevitably continue without accepting or tolerating any interferences, pressures, or threats whatsoever. The Algerian people, faced with things like this and throughout their noble resistance, have proven their ability to overcome them.

Contrary to reality, alleged aid to the Algerian people at the level of Algerian-French relations was made up in a humiliating fashion. This contributed to the distortion of the facts of their relations and the infringement on their stability. Moreover, some French authorities have tried to give the impression that they are taking charge of the Algerian situation at the level of international financial bodies.

Given all this, it is time to set the record right. First, Algeria is not nominated to benefit from the general aid for development. Therefore, it owes France no favorable financial aid. This concerns commercial loans which all countries of the world give to their partners to be used in helping their national exporters and expanding their foreign trade. Second, this type of loan, which is estimated at 6 billion French francs [FF] for 1994, relates to French exports to Algeria which are estimated at FF14 billion against FF8 billion of Algerian exports to France. The deficit in the Algerian balance of trade is estimated at FF6 billion. Third, France has managed now to take 33 percent of the Algerian market for the sole purpose of rescheduling Algeria's debts.

Presidential Election Campaign Officially Launched

LD2210135595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The presidential election campaign, the first round of which is due to take place on 16 November, began officially today. The four candidates: Noureddine Boukrouh, Liamine Zeroual, Said Sadi, and Mahfoud Nahnah — began their campaigns by presenting their programs to the electorate through the public information organs, including the radio and television. They will also hold news conferences and rallies in cities and towns throughout the country.

Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, chose Mascara Province to launch his election campaign with a direct contact with the inhabitants of this province.

Said Sadi, leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, will hold a news conference in the "El-Djazair Hotel" to outline his program and his campaign schedule.

In order to guarantee the smooth running of the four candidates' campaigns, efforts continued unabated throughout the country's constituencies to provide human and material support for all candidates to help them explain their programs. Places where rallies can be held and posters of candidates displayed have also been designated. National radio has also begun recording broadcasts by candidates and their representatives. [passage omitted]

PRA Leader Boukrouh Launches Election Campaign

LD2210232095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1847 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Election broadcast by Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Party of Renewal, in the television studio on 22 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate.

My brothers and sisters inside and outside the homeland. The election campaign officially starts today. By the way, we will, God willing, be your guests until 13 November. [passage omitted]

I will take this opportunity to introduce the ideas and the program that I will suggest to you on the occasion of the presidential elections. But, at the same time I will travel throughout the homeland to meet the citizens in the provinces, open discussions with them, listen to them, and be acquainted with their worries.

Thus, on my part, I will talk for a period of three weeks so that you come to know my ideas and the project I am proposing to you, but, on the other hand, I will visit the citizens in the provinces to listen to them, and be familiar with their worries.

As everyone knows, these elections have come at difficult times. Our country is in the middle of a difficult and severe crisis. The people are suffering a lot. The losses are enormous. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I wanted my first official act to start from Mascara in the form of a speech, which I addressed to the Algerian nation, and history, because Algeria has an ancient history. The present times in which it is living are difficult, and its future is probably uncertain, but in such moments we need to register ourselves within the framework of the symbols created by the people before us. [passage omitted]

Thus, I wanted to say today that we should remember in this crisis that there are symbols on which we can rely in confronting our problems. These symbols remind us that national unity is a sacred thing. Without national unity Algeria cannot remain in history, and would fall once again. [passage omitted]

For this reason I wanted to go to Mascara because I have presented a program that I called "New Algeria." I talk in this project about the problems we are experiencing, but these problems have not descended from heaven in 1988 or 1989. In fact, the things that we have not done in the past as a state, as a nation, or as intellectuals were responsible for gradually preparing this explosion in which we have been living for five years, and the Algerians have become enemies of one another. The Algerians have started to slaughter and kill their brothers, violate other people's honor, and destroy the economic establishments. [passage omitted]

The new Algeria that I am talking about comes under the principle of an eternal Algeria. I am not proposing to create a new Algeria. I have already told you that I have put my symbols and my political thought within the symbols of these heroes. I have chosen Amir Abdelkader in view of his patriotic personality, but the number of heroes is unlimited. Men and women appeared in all periods to embody this national unity and to give an example to the nation.

The new Algeria must be built on the ideals in which the Algerians believed from Massinissa [Berber leader in the pre-Islamic period in North Africa] up to now.

We now have political and economic problems that should not be further complicated by adopting ideas and views that do not agree with the psychological, ideological, and cultural fabric of the Algerian person.

Today, I want to talk to you at length to give a view and the broad lines of the philosophy of my program. I know that from now on we will meet almost every evening. So, I will be taking paragraphs from my program, field by field, to simplify them, clarify them, and deal with any objective problems.

I must stress that what matters to me today is the importance and necessity of looking at the candidates for presidency from the angle of their programs and ideas.

Since the beginning of my political life, I have never relied on a given region. I do not have any region that supports me or on which I rely. I have not helped the emergence of the regional spirit because it is likely to harm the nation. It may be beneficial to a person in a given period. It may also give him a political image.

However, in the long run, this is not a good thing and it can only harm the nation and people.

On the other hand, I have not relied on monopolizing religion or language or the values of the November [1954] revolution. On the contrary, I have tried to be an Algerian who has all these characteristics in a natural manner. On top of these characteristics — which belong to Algeria and to everybody — he [the candidate] should try to put forward ideas on the best way of organizing Algerian society, the best way of running the economy, the best way for people to enjoy justice and equal opportunities.

This is the renewal philosophy that I have been talking about for the last six years. Today you are facing choices. There are clear projects and you have four candidates. I do not attack other candidates and I am aware that we are in competition. In a colloquial way we say: Each one is trying to sell his goods. However, we are not in a normal market. We are going through a critical period.

We know that tomorrow's choice must be based on the awareness that the president, who will be elected soon, should not make himself an element of the crisis. He should not, with his ideas and with the image society has of him, rekindle the situation and create problems again if he is elected.

We must see to it that Algeria has a president who comes to calm the situation. At the same time, this man should represent change because people are tired and fed up with the present authority. They have experienced it for more than 30 years and now they need change.

Therefore, I am proposing a program that I will explain from now on. I will not be coming on my own on future occasions. Today, I am on my own because it is an inaugural session. There will be Algerian brothers and sisters with whom we will discuss ideas with a view to simplifying them as best we can. I hope that you will be able to understand us from this pedagogical action. Thanks and God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Election Speech by Boukrouh

LD2210132995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Election speech by Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, peace be upon you. The official election campaign begins today. Everyone should understand that this presidential election is an historic opportunity and a new chance for the Algerian people to create the change it hopes for. We have seen that this change has not been achieved despite the party pluralism. On the other hand, we have seen that violence has not been able to realize the change which all the people need and call for so that we can live in a better society.

As far as I am concerned, as one of the candidates, I have the concept of a new Algeria, an Algeria that will be established on the basis of respect for the law, a change in the leadership of the country, a change in the programs for administering the economy and social relations. This new Algeria should be established on the principle of freedom in politics and economy. [passage omitted]

Therefore, my program, which I have called New Algeria, is a program linked to the past and to Algerian values. God willing, we will have many opportunities in the future — as this campaign will continue until 13 November — to outline my program to you point by point according to the various spheres.

But the important thing is that you should know that this New Algeria which I propose to you is an Algeria of peaceful change, and in which a citizen can live in peace and enjoy the protection of the law. God willing, we will once again achieve our unity and the concord which used to distinguish our country in the past.

Thanks, and until we meet again.

Election Interview With Boukrouh

LD2210155595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Election broadcast interview with Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Party of Renewal, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] What do you think of the French Socialist Party's call [for Chirac to refuse to meet with Algerian president in New York]?

[Boukrouh] I think that both in France and here in Algeria there are political parties which will try to exploit such a meeting for their own interests. I think this issue does not lend itself to serious discussions. The two presidents have decided to meet at a big world gathering to celebrate the UN's 50th anniversary and I think this meeting should not be exploited for political aims.

[Correspondent] Tehran also reacted — officially — to the meeting between [President] Zeroual and Chirac. Any comments?

[Boukrouh] Tehran took sides a while ago as far as the Algerian problem is concerned. Tehran wants a political regime to take power in Algeria which it could have some kind of influence on. I think Tehran should mind its own business and stop meddling in North African issues.

[Correspondent] Neighboring Iran is Afghanistan, a country still torn apart by civil war. Are you interested in the events there?

[Boukrouh] Yes, I follow the way military events unfold. I think Afghanistan is a martyr country. I would like to remind people that the Nahdah [Renaissance] movement started there in the last century, around 1860. It was Jamal al-Din al-Afghani's country. He was a fantastic man who advocated a rational Nahdah. His idea has now been perverted by those who misunderstand Islam and has become a boomerang for Afghanistan: You throw a boomerang and it comes back to you, hitting you in the face and destroying you. I am very sorry for all this.

[Correspondent] There was a bomb attack inside a mosque in Saudi Arabia yesterday. Is no country spared by terrorism?

[Boukrouh] Things come home to roost. There is a country which has something to do with violence in Muslim countries, especially in Algeria. Now they are getting their share. I think Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries should have no interest whatsoever in supporting subversives in countries like Algeria.

HAMAS Leader Nahnah's Election Broadcast

LD2210232895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1836 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Studio election broadcast by Mafoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, and prayers and peace be on the best of messengers, our Prophet Mohammad, and his good kinsfolk and companions.

Oh great Muslim Algerian people, I welcome you today, and all the mass media, and the political class in Algeria welcome us for waging the largest battle after the great 1 November battle, which is the battle of pluralism in the upcoming presidential elections.

The truth is that you, the people, were governed by a political system and authorities that were not up to the standard of the blessed Algerian revolution. [passage omitted]

There was a policy that governed the country. A political system that governed and imposed a unilateral view in everything, and excluded the potentials, qualifications, experts, scholars, and preachers, and imposed itself on the Algerian people with all its strength to the extent that it monopolized this political system.

All our country's benefits and riches, which God Almighty has given us...[incomplete sentence]. When we search for these riches we find them monopolized by a specific group of Algerian people. [passage omitted]

Thus, when we introduced ourselves to you, Oh Algerian people, it was not only to solve some problems, but to impose issues through dialogue and through spreading the word to the people. We want the split [with past practices] to be obvious. In our opinion, the split cannot be represented by the worn out dress and the old faces. The change cannot be achieved through old and weak faces that failed in administering the struggle, and sometimes failed even to meet with one another to solve the Algerian problems. [passage omitted]

The other issue you, the people, is that we have recently found people refusing to allow you express your choice in the change operation. One wants to prevent you, one wants to suppress you, and one wants to benefit from the misery and unhappiness in which you are living, one wants to benefit from the blood, the Algerian blood, and suck like Dracula, and survive on that.

We, and I personally, want to lift you, the people, who gave us his trust, as you have given it to others through the collection of signatures, that you truly want change. You want a new life. You want to announce the split with all forms of corruption and corrupters. [passage omitted]

Therefore, my brother the sister citizens, when we talk with you today we want to point out that we will review our program before you in the following days. Let the matters be clear about the chapter of the adder that governed the country, the chapter of the present in which the country is living in, and the future chapter that we wanted to be open before all the Algerians. The sincere Algerians were those who liberated the country, and led the Algerian people. [passage omitted]

We will present much of our program over the following few days so that our people will be reassured that Algeria still has men, and that the citizen in Algeria is still expressing in faithfulness and responsibility his present and future. God willing, we meet you over the following days in other programs. God bless you, and until another meeting, God peace and blessings be upon you.

Broadcast 'on Behalf of' Nahnah

LD2210141695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Election broadcast "on behalf of" HAMAS candidate Mahfoud Nahnah, by unidentified speaker; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, the lord of the universe. Prayers and peace be upon our prophet Muhammad, his family, and his companions.

Dear Algerian people, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. I have the pleasure to address you on behalf of Mahfoud Nahnah, the candidate of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, who presents himself to you with his impeccable personality, his shining past, and his policy that stems from the reality of his people, their religion, their values, their culture, and their aspirations. The policy is an extension of the Algerian people's desire for freedom, justice, security, advancement, and change. These are the values with which the Algerian people have been identified since the dawn of history, and which have become realized in the most beautiful images since the fusion of the Amazigh [Berbers] with Arabism and Islam. [passage omitted]

However, with great regret, the Algerian people's hopes and the dreams of the martyrs of the November revolution began to gradually fade due to deviations from the aims of the blessed revolution, and the regime making a series of consecutive mistakes, despite warnings by loyal ulema, callers, and liberation war veterans led by Mahfoud Nahnah who came on to the scene, calling and warning from the 1960's until now. [passage omitted]

However, the regime's rotten policy was not confined to material aspects. It extended to cultural and social aspects, away from the people's desires, values, and revolution. Doors were left wide open to the colonialists' language and culture. Doors were left wide open to failed communist cultures and ideas which were incompatible with the people's values, religion, and morality. [passage omitted]

However, in the midst of crisis comes resolution and hope. The Islamic renaissance expresses the Algerian people's wish for change, freedom, pluralism, and nobility of descent. It is the expression of the Algerian people's wish, through the events of October 1988, before October and after October, in spite of the efforts made by secularists to push the Islamic movement to the incinerator, to explosion, and erosion.

The Islamic Society Movement's policy, through its candidate Mahfoud Nahnah, articulates the reality of the crisis and puts forward an original, realistic, and gradual solution. It also articulates the Algerian people's wish for change: change of policies, people, and methods; a change for the better that embodies nobility of descent, development, and stability.

Dear Algerian people, the crisis in Algeria began with independence, and it must be solved today rather than tomorrow. [passage omitted] The solution lies in Mahfoud Nahnah's policy, which bears the values of nobility of descent, modernism, consultation, democracy, independence, and development.

The crisis began more than 30 years ago when the people were excluded from management of their affairs. The solution lies in Mahfoud Nahnah's policy which calls for dialogue without exclusion, reconciliation among all the sons of Algeria, and for decision-making to return to the Algerian people.

This is the only way we can deal with the crisis and achieve the change that men, women, young people, intellectuals, farmers, workers, old and young want. This is the way to regain confidence, return to the people and revive the slogan raised by Mahfoud Nahnah: Algeria was liberated by everyone, and it will be built by everyone. Peace be on you.

RCD Candidate Sadi Calls For Peace

LD2210134295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Election broadcast by Said Sadi, candidate from the Rally for Culture and Democracy; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sisters and brothers, I wanted to say a few words. I am with you yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I know that all Algerians are waiting for peace. Achieving this peace is the objective of officials and the hope of citizens. This peace needs both citizens and officials who have hopes for the future of their country. However, we, as responsible officials, have to take part in the struggle every day and we have to have hope of overcoming this crisis.

Peace needs a strong and credible state. [passage omitted] I have put myself forward [as a candidate] because I know you have been waiting every day for an alternative in our country. This alternative should bring officials with a background of struggle, with a program, and hope for our country. I, as an official, as a citizen, and as a father, was with you yesterday and I am with you today and will remain with you tomorrow.

I have put myself forward because I know that this alternative is the solution which will allow us to overcome bribery and exclusion, the exclusion which destroyed young people, citizens, and the country. However, I hope that if we can unite and assume power, Algeria will return to the level required for its future.

I wish you all good health.

Car Bomb Kills 8, Wounds 82 in Reliziane

LD2210202095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said that a booby-trapped car exploded today in El Romane district in Reliziane town center, killing eight people including three children aged six, nine and 12.

The same source said that the explosion also injured 82 people and damaged about 20 houses.

Car Bomb Explodes in Eastern Algiers

LD2310094295 Paris LCI Television in French 0900 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned from an AFP dispatch that a car bomb attack was carried out yesterday [22 October] against the commissariat at Baraki, in an eastern suburb of Algiers, while a cadre of the Interior Ministry was killed at El Biar, outside the capital.

Security Services Kill 26 'Terrorists'

LD2110190795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services said in a statement today that their forces had killed 26 terrorists in various operations carried out in the following provinces: Blida, Boumerdes, Chlef, Tizi Ouzou, Ain Defla, Relizane, Mila, Tiaret, and Skikda.

Major Oil Field Found Near Border With Libya

LD2110110995 Paris Radio France International in French 0730 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Algerian Sahara, at Ghadames, 600 km south of Algiers not far from the border with Tunisia and Libya, a major oil field has been discovered. This has just been confirmed in London by one of the firms involved in current explorations. The find is on a par with other major world oil fields. Michelle Guerral has more:

[Guerral] Estimates of reserves amounting to 1.5 billion barrels are described as reasonable by (?Nadarco). Further drilling will have to be done in the coming months before the full extent of the oil field can be accurately defined. While awaiting the final go-ahead from the Algerian authorities, which could take a long time, the business partners believe that a temporary authorization will allow them to begin exploiting their discovery by the end of 1996, at a rate of 40,000 barrels per day. That would bring Algeria's total oil production from 46 million to 48 million tonnes per year. There are other prospects, too: Sonatrach, the national oil company, which has signed a contract for a 51 percent share of the production with the three participating firms, is planning to build a new pipeline — to be completed in 1997 — capable of bringing several hundred thousand barrels per day to the main Algerian terminal.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Iraq, India, NAM Conference

NC2210183395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that terrorism has become an international phenomenon and that the countries that shelter terrorists will pay the price sooner or later. He ruled out a comparison between what is happening in Egypt and any other country. He said Egypt has always—for thousands of years—had a stable central government and that what is happening now are extremely limited terrorist practices by returnees from Afghanistan. He noted that the perpetrators of these crimes are seized promptly. In a statement to Indian television that aired today, President Mubarak said the security services in Egypt are vigilant and are in complete control of the situation.

On the possibility of Egypt participating with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to solve the Afghan problem, President Mubarak said: We must first work to solve the problem between India and Pakistan through negotiations, I believe this will help confront terrorism and those who sponsor it. He noted that he previously intervened between the late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and former Indian Prime Minister Rajif Gandhi to narrow the gap between them. He said Benazir Bhutto can now do this directly because direct contact can help solve many problems.

Discussing the situation in Bosnia, President Mubarak said the chaos that occurred there is a result of a mistake by the European countries, which should have moved from the beginning to solve the problem.

Responding to a question on the situation in Iraq and why the leadership there has not been changed, President Mubarak said Iraq has its own criteria and its own method for thinking, adding that it is not our business to talk of changing the regime, because this concerns the Iraqi people alone. Regarding the sanctions, he said that they have been imposed because of Saddam. He added: We must find a way to help the Iraqi people who suffer from diseases and malnutrition, particularly the children.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt and India agree on bolstering and preserving the Nonaligned Movement as an organization for developing nations.

Answering a question on cooperation between the two countries within the Nonaligned Movement, President Mubarak said that India and Egypt are founding countries of the Nonaligned Movement and that they cooperated closely during the era of President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. He noted that a topic he discussed with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is that the Nonaligned Movement can be an extremely important organization for developing countries. He said: We have agreed to cooperate to safeguard and bolster this movement.

Replying to a question on the possibility of increasing cooperation between Egypt and India to the level it was during the era of President 'Abd-al-Nasir, President Mubarak said: I respect all Egyptian leaders and we display their photos and their achievements. Each one of them was patriotic and did a great deal for his homeland. He added: I look forward to strengthening cooperation between Egypt and India and if our hopes are fulfilled, the relations will be even closer than what they were in the 1950's and 1960's.

Mubarak Called 'Scared Rat' After UN Cancellation

NC2110092295 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 21 (AFP) — Egypt's President Husni Mubarak called off his trip to New York for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations because he is running scared, an Islamic militant group said Saturday [21 October].

"Mubarak's failure to attend the Non-Aligned Movement conference in Colombia and his cancellation of his visit to the United Nations to deliver a speech are proof of the fear and panic which the cursed tyrant and scared rat feels," the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said in a statement faxed to a Western news agency.

UN spokesman Joe Sills said on Friday in New York that Mubarak would be replaced by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly on Monday. The United Nations gave no reason for the change of plan but there was speculation it was linked to security risks.

The al-Jama'ah claimed a June attempt to assassinate Mubarak in Addis Ababa from which the Egyptian president escaped unscathed and the group has sworn to continue its attempts to kill him.

The cancellation came after a New York jury on October 1 found Egyptian cleric Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and nine other co-defendants guilty of conspiracy to attack US targets. Al-Rahman has also been accused of attempting to assassinate Mubarak.

Defense Minister Returns From U.S., Comments

NC2210191595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)— Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, returned to Cairo this afternoon after an eight-day visit to the United States. During his visit, Field Marshal Tantawi held talks with senior officials in the U.S Defense Department and Administration on bilateral military relations and ways to develop them.

Following his arrival, Field Marshal Tantawi said his visit to the United States, at the invitation of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, was successful. He added that he sensed full understanding by the U.S Administration, the Defense Department, and the Congress of Egypt's requests for weapons, equipment, and training. He pointed out that the response to most of the issues raised during the talks was positive. He added: We reached excellent results in this regard. He noted that the U.S. Administration, Congress, and people fully respect Egypt and are aware of its role in attaining peace in the Middle East and that President Mubarak's role in promoting regional peace is much appreciated. He stressed that Egypt's role in the Middle East is pivotal and fundamental, and the U.S. side is cooperating with us and helping us because it is aware of this role.

Field Marshal Tantawi noted that the continuation of military aid to Egypt was one of the main goals [of the talks], adding that he sensed that the U.S. side is satisfied that the U.S. aid is being used in the correct manner. He added that military aid to Egypt is proceeding according to plan and is following annual and five-year schedules. He stressed that there is full conviction of the importance of peace and the role of Egypt and of President Mubarak in this regard. He noted that most of the people he met in the United States are optimistic about achieving peace, although this will not be easy; and they are trying to cooperate with Egypt to promote peace, particularly along the Syrian-Israeli track.

Field Marshal Tantawi noted that the question of terrorism was not been discussed [as received] during his visit because the U.S. Administration is convinced that Egypt has succeeded in repelling terrorism. He pointed out that Egypt's participation in peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina is possible. He said he learned from the U.S. Defense Secretary that everyone understands that the United States will send a large peacekeeping force to Bosnia-Herzegovina in conjunction with NATO and that troops from some other important countries, particularly Egypt, will be invited to join this force. He added that the decision to participate in this force is a political decision to be made by the Egyptian leadership. He pointed out that he agreed with the U.S. Defense Secretary to exchange visits on a regular basis to discuss bilateral cooperation and eliminate any problems impeding this cooperation. [passage omitted]

Field Marshal Tantawi added: We would like to obtain weapons from the U.S. weapons surplus. For Egypt to obtain Oliver Hazard Perry class frigates, we have reached an agreement with the U.S. Administration and managed to convince the Congress of this, he added. He noted that there are problems facing the U.S. military budget, which is facing large cuts by Congress. He added: In my contacts with some members of Congress who wish to reduce the U.S. military budget, I found great sympathy toward Egypt. He pointed out that Egypt obtains most of its weapons from the United States as part of the U.S. military aid.

Field Marshal Tantawi stressed that the joint military industrialization between Egypt and the United States is proceeding as scheduled. He added: We have a huge factory for building tanks in Egypt. One of the main issues discussed during the visit was how to develop this factory, increase its production, decide what to do with the products, and see what else could be added in the field of joint industrialization. [passage omitted]

Ruling Party Denies Arrest of Rival Candidate

NC2010140795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1222 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source in the National Democratic Party [NDP] has denied reports published by Egyptian opposition newspapers on the arrest of Jamal Hasan. Hasan was described by the papers as the main rival of Dr. Yusef Wali, NDP secretary general and minister of agriculture, in the upcoming People's Assembly elections in al-Fayyum constituency.

The source said Jamal Hasan personally telephoned Dr. Wali and denied everything that these newspapers had published.

The source also denied an opposition newspaper report today that Dr. Wali threatened to dissolve cooperatives because farmers refused to sell their cotton, asserting that the report was totally untrue. The farmers and their cooperative organizations, he said, know full well that the NDP and its government is concerned about their interests and supports their demands.

The source added that most of the leaders of the cooperatives movement are leading members in the NDP and emphasized that all are standing as one rank behind the farmers' interests, which are inseparable from the interests of the national economy.

MB Members' Military Trial To Resume

NC2110122295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1125 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court will hold a session the day after tomorrow, Monday, 23 October, to continue reviewing the case of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. There are 49 defendants, one of whom is at large in the United States.

The session will be dedicated to watching video tapes on the organization's meetings and listening to a number of audio tapes pertaining to the case.

The military prosecution charged the defendants with joining and running an illegal group whose objective is to hamper the Constitution and laws, convening secret meetings and seminars to explain their principles, and forming a consultative council for the group which issues instructions and provides funding for the group.

'Wanted' Jihad Members Released to Authorities

MM2010122195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
20 Oct 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Arab State Extradites Six Jihad Elements to Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH — Informed Egyptian sources state that an Arab state has handed over to Egyptian authorities six Jihad organization members over the past few days.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that the six are: Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Sharqawi, Ayman Farghali Hasan, Ahmad Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rahim, Muhammad Fadl Abu-Jabal, Muhammad Ahmad Badawi, and Muhammad Salah 'Abdallah. The sources said that the extradition falls within the framework of Egyptian efforts to secure the extradition of wanted members of extremist religious groups who live in Arab and foreign states.

The sources pointed out that the higher state security prosecutor's office has begun to interrogate the six and has decided to imprison them for 15 days pending investigation.

'Fundamentalist' Editor To Be Tried

NC2110102795 Paris AFP in English
0934 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 21 (AFP) — The editor of a Moslem fundamentalist weekly has been called for trial next month on slander charges, the first Egyptian journalist to be tried under a controversial press law, his paper said Saturday [21 October].

The trial of Majdi Husayn, editor of AL-SHA'B which appears twice a week, is to start on November 12, the paper's assistant editor-in- chief 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im told AFP. Husayn faces charges that he defamed the son of Interior Minister General Hasan al-Alfi and under the new law he could face up to 15 years in prison, 'Abd-al-Mun'im said.

Egypt's constitutional court was to rule Saturday on the validity of the law, passed in May, which toughened penalties against slander and raised protests from journalists who argued it would be used to kill criticism of the government.

"The AL-SHA'B has been at the forefront of exposing government corruption and criticizing the new law. This trial is a response to that campaign and a message to all journalists to frighten them," 'Abd-al-Mun'im said.

The charges are based on an article in AL-SHA'B which accused Ala' Hasan al-Alfi, without naming him, of insulting the manager of a Cairo hotel where the minister's son refused to pay his bill.

President Husni Mubarak "gave journalists an oral promise that this law would not be put into effect, then suddenly we find Husayn put on trial under the law," 'Abd-al-Mun'im said. Mubarak made a number of compromises to journalists after they threatened a strike in protest at the law, including a promise not to implement one of its more controversial aspects, the detention of journalists under investigation. He also ordered the constitutional court to review the law and set up a commission to revise Egypt's press laws in general.

The journalists' union has set a December 24 deadline for the commission to come up with new legislation.

U.S. Proposal To Move Embassy to Jerusalem Criticized

NC2210213095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2022 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the proposal by Senator Robert Dole, U.S. Senate majority leader, to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In its 23 October issue, the paper carries an editorial entitled: "The Road to the White House Does Not Pass Through Jerusalem."

It says that Robert Dole is trying to enter the White House at any price, even over the ruins of Middle East peace. It notes that by making this proposal he is seeking to win Jewish votes in the next U.S. presidential election.

AL-AKHBAR asks if Dole realizes the horrible consequences that his proposal to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will have on the entire peace process, on relations between the United States and the Arab and Islamic countries, and indeed on its relations with the Christian world, bearing in mind that Jerusalem is the object of attention of Muslims and Christians and that it is a sacred site for the three heavenly religions.

The paper states: If Senator Dole wants to enter the White House over the ruins of Jerusalem, his party's members should advise him to search for another way to become president, a way that is not full of thorns. It explains that if his proposal is carried out, it will ruin the entire peace process and bring back tension and war to the Middle East, the most vitally strategic region in the world.

Croat Envoy Comments on Islamic Group's Threat

NC2210154595 Paris AFP in English
1519 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 22 (AFP)—Croatia is taking "very seriously" threats by Egypt's al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [The Islamic Group] after the Moslem militant group claimed responsibility for a car bombing in his country last week, its ambassador here said Sunday [22 October].

Al-Jama'ah said in a fax on Saturday that it had set off the bomb in the Adriatic port of Rijeka the day before, killing one and injuring 29, and vowed to continue attacking Croatian interests until it freed one of its leaders.

"We take this statement very seriously and we will ask the Egyptian foreign ministry to reinforce security at our chancellery," Neven Mimica told AFP.

Croatia's embassy in Cairo opened in November 1993 and has five employees.

Mimica denied that Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, the al-Jama'ah spokesman whom the group said was arrested in Zagreb, was in Croatia.

Qasim "arrived in September in Zagreb with a proper visa, but did not register with police as required. He was arrested in the street then expelled one or two days later," Mimica said.

But he said he did not know where Qasim, who has political asylum in Denmark since 1993, was expelled to.

In its fax sent to a Western news agency, the al-Jama'ah warned Croatia it would continue its attacks unless Zagreb freed Qasim, who has been sentenced to death in absentia in Egypt.

"The Qasim affair will not pass except through waterfalls of blood which will flow from Croatia's interests in and out of the country," the group said.

"Release Qasim or you will enter a war whose extent God only knows. We tell you your interests will be targeted," the group said, demanding "an official apology for what happened."

Naval Forces Commander on Maneuvers, Improvements

NC2010131995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1010 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alexandria, 20 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General Ahmad 'Ali Fadil, commander of the Navy, saluted President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, on the occasion of the celebrations of the glorious October victory and the passage of 14 years of renewing allegiance to the president. He also congratulated him on the occasion of overcoming a difficult stage of the peace talks. The commander of the Navy also congratulated all members of the Armed and naval Forces on the occasion of the Armed Forces and naval forces days.

This came at the beginning of the news conference the commander of the Navy held today on the occasion of the celebrations marking Naval Forces Day, 21 October, and the occasion commemorating the sinking of the Israeli destroyer, Elat, in October 1967.

Lt. Gen. Fadil spoke about development in the Navy and improvement in its combat ability. He said it has finished manufacturing a mine detector in cooperation with foreign expertise; it will arrive soon. In addition, submarines have been developed ahead of schedule; the deadline was the end of this year.

Lt. Gen. Fadil said the Navy is in the process of finalizing contracts for two American Oliver Hazard Perry class frigates. He noted that it is highly competent and is considered one of the best frigates in the world. In addition, in coordination with the Air Force, contracts were signed for S.H.T.F. [name as received] type helicopters, which are used to combat submarines. These planes operate from land or from Knox and Becket type frigates. [passage omitted]

Regarding training, Lt. Gen. Fadil stated that this year is considered one of the successful years in the field of training. The most prominent events have been carried out in joint exercises, [such as] the first "Eagle Salute" in the Red Sea between Egypt and the United States, with the participation of observers from Arab countries. A joint exercise between Egypt and Saudi Arabia in territorial waters was also completed with great success.

Lt. Gen. Fadil, commander of the naval forces, also said there will be a joint exercise during the next stage in the Mediterranean Sea—the Bright Star maneuvers—in which Egypt, the United States, Britain, France, and the United Arab Emirates will take part. He clarified that the stage for preparation for this exercise started a while ago in transporting equipment and preparing all branches of the Armed Forces. The major practical stage of this training will start on 11 November. [passage omitted]

Libya

Official Denies Plans for 'Arafat Visit

LD2210115795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1055 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli — Some information media reported that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] had cancelled a visit he was intending to make to the Great Jamahiriyah. An official source at the General Secretariat of the People's General Committee for Unity has said that there were no agreed arrangements for a visit by Abu-'Ammar to the Great Jamahiriyah, hence our astonishment at the claims by some information media that Abu-'Ammar had cancelled a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Jordan's Call To End Israel Embargo Denounced

LD2010173595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Statement by "a source at the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper, the Jordanian foreign minister urged the Arab countries to stop the Arab embargo against the Israeli enemy. He said that each country had a sovereign right to make a decision on this matter if the Arab League failed to do so.

While expressing its regret at what has been attributed to the Jordanian minister, which is a clear violation of the provisions of the charter of the Arab League and its resolutions, as well as the rules of the Arab embargo against the Israeli enemy, the secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity asks: What was the purpose of the embargo against the enemy, and why all the resolutions and the embargo organs? Were not they meant for facing up to the Israeli aggression, usurpation, and the occupation that still continues in Arab countries? The secretariat is surprised to see some Arabs call for the abolition of the boycott decision that is one of the most important Arab conventions in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity believes that such calls are likely to lead to further weakness and fragmentation in Arab positions at regional and international levels. The secretariat stresses that the Great Jamahiriyah sticks to the rules of the Arab embargo, and it underlines the need for the Arab countries to remain committed to this embargo, and the fact that a decision made unanimously can be abolished only by a similar Arab consensus in accordance with the resolution of the Arab League Council at its extraordinary session of 22 November 1993. Likewise, the Arab League is required, now more than at any time, to assume its responsible role to maintain the credibility of its conventions and resolutions.

JANA: UN Has Failed To Safeguard Peace

LD2310095795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, 23 October: The proceedings of the 50th session of the UN General Assembly began in New York yesterday; this session was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the UN. This session is being held, however, at a time when the UN has been transformed into a means used by the West, led by America, to serve its own interest and manipulate its agencies to implement its aggressive schemes against peoples.

Thus, the UN has totally failed to carry out the tasks which was created for, namely the protection of peace, resolving international disputes and bringing about economic and social cooperation between member countries.

The best example which depicts the UN's failure, lost of credibility and marginalisation was when America forced the so- called the Security Council to pass unjust resolutions and impose embargoes on peoples which opposed American colonialist schemes against them. Such unjust resolutions have boosted the belief of people throughout the world that the UN has lost its credibility; people no longer trust the UN which has in fact become a saber for oppressing peoples, given the double standard it uses, depending on political considerations, when dealing with international problems, like its current differentiation between Arabs and Israelis. And the matter become more serious when it comes to the drafting of important resolution at the so-called the Security Council which generally brought about havoc to peoples and infringed their sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Opposition Figure al-Jamri on Planned Hunger Strike

NC2210204595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with opposition figure Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Amir al-Jamri, in Manama, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran "this morning;" from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Your Eminence 'Allamah Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Amir a-Jamri, news agencies have spoken of your intention, together with other Bahraini opposition figures, to stage a hunger strike beginning tomorrow. What can you tell our listeners about the reasons for this step?

[Al-Jamri] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The reasons for this step can be summarized as follows: The authorities have not implemented the agreements we reached with them. The agreements were not implemented in the agreed-upon way, although some of the provisions have been implemented to a certain degree. This has provoked resentment, unrest, protests, and tension among the Bahraini public. Naturally, we became obliged to resort to such a step. If we leave the public to act alone in the current atmosphere of tension, we fear that it will resort to unsound actions. Some people might act improperly and as a result make us lose the calm that we have achieved. We want the calm to continue. We want to seize the reins and not allow the public to act as it wishes.

[Hasan] Your Eminence, some people claim that the step you are about to take is a form of provocation to the government although you have promised to calm public sentiment. How do you reconcile these two views?

[Al-Jamri] Really, there is no provocation in the step we are about to take. We don't agree with this interpretation. First of all, when we announced our plan we urged the public to maintain its calm. We made it clear that we regard any march, any demonstration, or any frenzied behavior as unacceptable. We don't want anyone to demonstrate and claim that his action is an act of solidarity with the hunger strikers. We don't accept this claim. We have stated that marches, demonstrations, and any form of violence are unacceptable to us. Furthermore, everyone knows that a sit-in and a hunger strike are different from demonstrations. This step is in concert with our call to maintain calm. It does not contradict the idea of calmness. Our basic objective is to draw the authorities' attention to the existing popular tension and to make them understand that this tension makes it necessary for us to take this step to deal with the situation and keep matters under control.

[Hasan] Your Eminence, what will happen if the masses join your sit-in? You have had some experience with public response to your statements and actions.

[Al-Jamri] The public's joining of our sit-in will still be studied. However, we will approve the participation of others only on a partial, individual basis. Anyone who wishes to join will be included if the initiators of the sit-in plan approve of them. This means not everyone who wants to join will be admitted. The matter must be carefully studied and public interest considered. The sit-in must be orderly and well-organized.

[Hasan] How many have decided to join the hunger strike so far?

[Al-Jamri] Many have asked to join but, so far, we have not admitted anyone except after careful study. So far, six people will take part in the sit-in. Me and five others. Others have asked to join but we have not admitted anyone so far. There is, however, a general plan to show public dissatisfaction by donning black garments and so on. There is such an idea. But no one apart from the original planners have been admitted to the sit-in.

[Hasan] Have you taken into account the government's expected reaction to your strike?

[Al-Jamri] Of course we have taken this into account. However, we are hoping for a good reaction. Our objective is to draw the government's attention to the public tension. We hope that the government will shoulder its responsibility for ending this tension by fulfilling our demands.

[Hasan] There has been a preliminary reaction by the government, stating that there should be no fresh instances of violence and rioting. The government said it will adopt a position on such occurrences. Do you believe the government's announcement was addressing the action that you plan to take?

[Al-Jamri] I do not think so.

[Hasan] 'Allamah al-Jamri, thank you for this opportunity that you have given to the "News and Reports" program.

[Al-Jamri] You are welcome.

Opposition Figure on Differences with Government

NC2210211395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with opposition figure Shaykh 'Ali Salman, in London, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran "this morning;" from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Your Eminence Shaykh 'Ali Salman, news agencies have reported His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri and some of his associates will go on a hunger strike tomorrow. Do you have any information on this issue? What are the reasons that made them decide to go on a hunger strike?

[Salman] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. This decision comes two months after the government declared its desire to hold a dialogue with the opposition to reach radical solutions to problems pending for more than 20 years. These problems basically stemmed from the absence of a legislative assembly in the country—an elected national assembly. This move reached a dead end as a result of the state's stalling and lack of desire to enter a serious dialogue on this substantive issue. In addition, the state committed numerous excesses against the spirit and letter of the agreement. The government seems to persist in its grim course. The government cooperates with the security agencies, which do not want to discuss the basic problem of the country. The reasons that prompted our brothers to decide to go on a hunger strike are the continued arbitrary measures against the citizens. In addition, some employees have been dismissed from their jobs. To cite one example, Dr. Munirah Fakhru has been fired from her job. Detainees are referred to trials, students have been detained, a seminar by Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif al-Mahmud, professor 'Abd-al-Wahhab [last name indistinct], and professor Hasan Mushaymah has been canceled. Also, officials denied that there is any agreement with the opposition and described the detainees, ulema, and released professors in a language that does not befit the people who did all they could to emerge from the existing political crisis through dialogue. Moreover, the prime minister made a statement on establishing or promoting the shura council to confiscate the basic demand—the establishment of the national assembly. Also, the foreign minister said he and his government did not benefit from the past experiment. This means that they will not take any measures to address the past incidents. All these measures stopped the process to resolve the crisis through dialogue without any pressure. The government should have taken a step to bring a solution closer. The government efforts do no seek a radical solution.

The step our brothers have declared—to go on strike and stage a sit-in—is supported by all the opposition figures I have met. The opposition forces praise the peaceful method of going on a hunger strike and of staging a sit-in. We encourage our associates and good people to abide by the call of the ulema and professors to keep quiet and seek peaceful means. God willing, this step will bring the people closer to their basic goal—the return of parliamentary life to Bahrain.

[Hasan] We thank His Eminence Shaykh 'Ali Salman for this interview.

Kuwait

Government Condemns Bomb Attack on Saudi Mosque

LD2210162895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1440 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA) — The State of Kuwait today condemned the explosion attack on a mosque in a village in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which killed a number of innocent people and expressed condolences to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the to the Saudi people.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil said, following the weekly meeting of the council of ministers, which was held under the chairmanship of the acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the council "reviewed the criminal attack on a mosque in a village in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which killed a number of innocent people".

He added: "The council has condemned such an odious crime which was against religious and human values and conveyed to the custodian of the Two Holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, to the fraternal Saudi people and the families of the victims its deepest sympathy, wishing speedy recovery for the victims and beseeching Almighty God to provide continuous stability in the fraternal Kingdom." [passage omitted]

Al-Dakhil also said that the council had been briefed by the minister of interior on the events which surrounded the throwing of tear-gas bomb in the faculty of administrative studies at Kuwait University last Wednesday [18 October].

He also indicated that council was briefed on the Interior Ministry's investigations to find out who was behind the attack and why.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning indicated that the council had reiterated its condemnation and rejection of such a criminal attack aiming at disturbing security and shaking stability in the country.

He added, however, that the council had urged people working for the security services to exert their efforts in order to find the perpetrators as soon as possible and stop anyone who might like to temper with security of citizens and the country. [passage omitted]

University Students Protest Tear Gas Incident

NC2110201795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 21 Oct (MENA)—The Kuwaiti Students Union today denounced the incident on 18 October in which tear gas was thrown in the University of Kuwait campus after the results of the Faculty of Science's student union [elections] were announced. Fifty-four students suffered severe respiratory symptoms as a result of the tear gas.

In a statement issued today, the Union described the incident as "criminal," pointing out that it aimed at breaking national unity.

University students observed a sit-in today to protest the incident. They distributed a statement, stressing that the culprits should be apprehended and punished swiftly.

Saudi Arabia

Six Killed, 101 Wounded in Bomb Attack on Mosque

'Personal Dispute' Possible Cause

NC2010221795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 20 Oct (MENA)—Six persons were killed and 101 persons were wounded when an explosive device was thrown at worshipers in a mosque in Juba town in Bishah Province.

In a statement broadcast on Saudi television tonight, the Saudi Interior Ministry announced that the concerned authorities immediately cordoned off the scene of the incident and began a manhunt for the culprits.

The statement noted that initial investigation indicates that the cause of the crime was a personal dispute between an individual and some of the worshipers, who numbered 500 when the incident occurred.

Interior Ministry Confirms Casualties

LD2010223095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2144 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 20 Oct (SPA) — An official source in the Ministry of interior Stated that during today's Friday prayers in al-Qawba' village, Bishah Governorate, an explosive canister was thrown into the mosque. The explosion led to the deaths of six and injured 101 others to varying degrees. The total number of worshippers was around 500.

The competent authorities surrounded the site immediately searching for the perpetrator of this appalling crime. They searched the scene of the crime for evidence which could lead to identification of the perpetrator and the type of explosive used.

Initial investigations show that it was committed by one person who had some personal disagreement with some of the worshippers.

Asir Governor Says Bomber Known

LD2110222395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Khalid al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Asir region, said that the incident that took place at the mosque of al-Quwba' village in Bishah governorate in Asir region at midday yesterday, Friday [20 October], was a criminal act that was carried out by an individual whose case was known and that the people of the governorate knew this. [passage omitted]

His highness the governor of Asir region added that those who were injured were doing well and the number of those killed was six: Two Saudis, one Egyptian, one Indian, and two were still unidentified.

His Highness Prince Khalid al-Faysal said that just a few among the injured — about two or three people were in intensive care, needing medical attention and were stable.

His highness reiterated the officials' eagerness to arrest the perpetrator of the attack soon. He said: We have found the car he was using in a mountainous area. Two people who were seen with him in al Quwba' village [yesterday] morning, who admitted that they took breakfast with him but denied that they participated in the incident, have been arrested. I would like to reassure the brother citizens that the manhunt is continuing and is relentless, and the perpetrator will, God willing, be arrested soon and is known. His name is 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Sa'd al-'Amri alias Bin Mu'ammar. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Iraqi Referendum, Says Saddam's Fall 'Soon'

JN2010170395 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 16 Oct 95 p 7

[Editorial: "The Imminent Collapse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] From the moment the Saddamist dictatorial clique assumed power by force in Baghdad, the helpless Iraqi people have been suffering from repression, oppression, starvation, and successive economic crises. These crises reached their climax after the international embargo was imposed on a state which — thanks to its leadership's repeated adventures and reckless displays of heroism — changed from a country rich in human resources and natural wealth to an isolated country that suffers from poverty, want, and deprivation. Undoubtedly, the "celebration of the historic referendum," as it was called by the Iraqi propaganda trumpets, which the Saddamists held yesterday in order to polish the face of their leader and restore his prestige, will fail, despite the huge sums of money spent on the exposed theatrical productions to save the land of the two rivers from the thorny economic difficulties that are expected as long as the Saddamist authority continues to have a stranglehold on the Iraqi people. It is strange that such a comedy — called the Mother of Referendums — should be even be acted out when its results are already known beforehand. It is also strange that some people imagine that giving the Saddamist authority a new term in office will lead to an improvement in the tragic situation of the Iraqi people. Moreover, it would be really strange if the Saddamist clique thinks that after concluding its referendum revue it can invent another avenue to escape international sanctions. The only alternative it has is to submit to all UN Security Council resolutions and implement their provisions. It seems that the ruling authority in Baghdad is unprepared to reconsider the mistakes it has made time and again against the Iraqi people and the entire world. It is also revealing new mistakes every day to confirm its feverish challenges to the international community. The latest is its secret purchase of missile components worth millions of dollars despite the trade embargo imposed on Baghdad. This confirms that the tyrant regime is determined to rebuild its military arsenal to threaten the regional states. These flagrant challenges cannot be interpreted in isolation from the mistakes of the regime, which has been ruling Baghdad by force and suppression since it came to power. Nevertheless, one of the strangest things which the Iraqi propaganda trumpets were seeking to promote before the "referendum celebration," in an exposed attempt to beautify these ugly mistakes and challenges, was the proposition that yesterday's referendum was a natural progression from revolutionary legitimacy to the constitutional legitimacy. Those who have followed the history of the Saddamist regime since it came to power know very well that it lacks any kind of legitimacy. One of the most basic principles for legitimacy is for the ruler to invest his achievements and good deeds in the land he is ruling. Instead, since they imposed their regime on the people of Iraq, the tyrannical Saddamist clique has been busy destroying Iraq's human resources and squandering its natural wealth to finance its satanic whims, military adventures, and failed wars. No matter how long the Saddamists manage to stay in power through their election celebrations or similar events to raise the pictures of the "only president" and his rejected political slogans, the fact that cannot be ignored is the suffering of the Iraqi people and their pains, wounds, and tragedies. This fact will continue as long as the Saddamists have a stranglehold on the sons of this people. These sufferings will be removed only when the Saddamists fall, which is soon.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister To Discuss Iraqi Embargo at UN

JN2110110095 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah has said that the call by UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for ending the embargo and suffering of the Iraqi people and realizing Arab reconciliation aims to restore Arab solidarity. In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY and the Abu Dhabi-based United Arab Emirates Television, his excellency added: Those acquainted with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan know that he represents a school of Arab solidarity and that he constantly advocates and works for solidarity. This call was preceded by other similar calls.

His Excellency Rashid 'Abdallah is a member of the delegation accompanying Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin- Zayid Al Nuhayyan which will take part in the UN 50th anniversary celebrations in New York. He noted that it is time for all Arab states and the Arab League to restore Arab solidarity. He said: The suffering of the Iraqi people over the past years is something painful. Within the framework of Arab solidarity, collective Arab interests, and inter-Arab meetings the root-causes of this situation can be removed.

His excellency said that he will meet with a number of Arab foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN celebrations in New York to discuss the president's call for forgiveness and lifting the blockade and suffering of the Iraqi people.

Government Calls for Aid for Iraq

NC2210215095 Paris AFP in English 1620 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Oct 22 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday [22 October] urged other Arab countries to supply urgent aid to Iraq, intensifying a campaign to end crippling international sanctions against Baghdad.

Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum said he was delighted by last week's call by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for the United Nations to lift the five-year embargo against Iraq.

"The Iraqi people are Arabs, whom we should not abandon especially in these circumstances," Shaykh Muhammad told a German television channel in a rare interview carried by the official UAE news agency WAM.

"Through the President's call, I now urge all Arab countries, especially those in the Gulf, to help in ending the embargo against the Iraqi people and provide urgent assistance to them. The UAE will not hesitate in providing assistance to the brotherly Iraqi people," he said.

In statements last week, Shaykh Zayid said it was time for Arabs to join hands in lifting the UN Security Council sanctions imposed on Iraq when its forces invaded neighbouring Kuwait in August 1990.

He also criticised Kuwait for rejecting reconciliation overtures by pro-Iraq Arab states.

UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah said he would meet his Arab counterparts attending UN anniversary celebrations in New York to rally support for Shaykh Zayid's initiative.

In a report from New York on Saturday, WAM said Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the UAE deputy prime minister, met Kuwait's emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

It gave no details of the meeting but diplomats said it apparently focused on Shaykh Zayid's call for an end to the sanctions.

Qatar, Yemen, and the Palestinian Authority are among those who have backed the campaign to end the sanctions, which was welcomed by Baghdad.

Asked about the UAE's island dispute with Iran, Shaykh Muhammad said he expected a solution to the problem.

"I see the problem is on its way to a solution. It is in our interests and Iran's interests to resolve this problem... There is no doubt Iran wants peace in the region and wants to devote its time to serving its people," he said.

The UAE has said it would seek international arbitration if Iran rejected direct negotiations on the dispute over the strategic Gulf islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb.

Yemen

UAE President's 'Courageous' Statements Hailed

JN2010181595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Statement by "a responsible source at the Presidential Office"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Yemen expresses its absolute support for the honest, courageous call by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the fraternal United Arab Emirates, for the need to start serious work to achieve Arab reconciliation and lift the blockade on the fraternal Iraqi people. Shaykh Zayid made the call during his recent conversation with the ambassadors of a number of Arab and foreign countries in Abu Dhabi.

The Republic of Yemen also expresses its extreme appreciation for the honest pan-Arab motive that prompted His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan to stress the need to close the chapter of the past and turn a new, brilliant leaf in inter-Arab relations.

The source added: The Republic of Yemen hopes that this honest call will be supported by all brothers and will find its way to implementation.

Ethiopian Ambassador Asks For Political Asylum

JN2110204595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', learned that brother Yusuf Hamad Nasir, ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to our country, today asked the competent authorities to grant him political asylum. The Ethiopian ambassador presented his credentials as Ethiopia's extraordinary plenipotentiary ambassador to Yemen in mid 1992.

It is noteworthy that a number of Ethiopia's ambassadors accredited to our country have asked for political asylum in the past.

Saddam Reportedly Considers Appointing Senate

NC2210124495 Paris AFP in English
1123 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 22 (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, after winning a referendum to endorse his leadership, is considering appointing a senate formed of eminent civilian and military people, an official newspaper said Sunday [22 September].

"The senate's job would be to complement that of the national assembly (parliament), and it would be formed of the old civilian and military guard," the AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said.

After Iraqis on October 15 gave Saddam 99.96 percent of the vote for seven more years in power, officials said they would hold parliamentary elections next year for the first time since 1989, amid new moves toward "democracy."

It was not unusual for senate members to be appointed rather than elected, the newspaper said. "There are senates in advanced countries in which one part is named and the other elected," it added. "The members of the senate would be appointed by the president, in line with a special procedure to use their experience to build Iraq," it said.

Saddam, Leadership Discuss Democracy, Ration Card

JN2210212195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The conferees discussed and studied the lessons from the popular referendum on the day of the great march and its great results. The conferees voiced their deep appreciation for the firm, established, sincere, and educated patriotism displayed by all the masses of Iraq who reaffirmed allegiance to the leader of the homeland and people and their righteous son, the leader of the march, President Saddam Husayn, in a legal, constitutional, and civilized manner that won the admiration of all honorable and fair people in the Arab homeland and the world.

The conferees also voiced great appreciation for the great and precise efforts exerted by the Ba'th Party militants in preparing for the referendum and in educating the masses about the great nationalistic meaning of the referendum as a genuine and civilized national challenge against the conspiracies and falsehoods of the colonialist and agent quarters and circles.

During their study of the lessons of the referendum, the conferees stressed that this great experiment in implementing genuine democracy provides an additional motive for the leadership, party, and people to proceed ahead in entrenching and developing the democratic march in the country. The RCC and the Iraq Command decided to start studying the practical steps in this direction.

It was also decided that early next year, and in accordance with the National Assembly Law, a new National Assembly should be elected within the framework of freedom and democracy that emanates from the principles of the party and the revolution, and within the framework of moving from the revolutionary legitimacy to the constitutional legitimacy.

In the presence of the trade minister, the RCC and the Iraq Command studied the possibility of improving the quota of some items on the ration card. After studying the subject, the leader president, may God protect and preserve him, instructed the trade minister to increase the December ration for flour and vegetable oil as of 1 December 1995, as follows:

1. To increase the flour ration by one kg per person, whereby the monthly ration shall become seven, instead of six, kgs per person per month.

2. To increase the vegetable oil ration by 125 grams per person, whereby the monthly ration shall become 750, instead of 625, grams per person per month.

His excellency also instructed that the price the state shall pay for purchasing the rice and corn crops for the current season shall be as follows:

1. The purchase price for rice:
a. 'Anbar and al-Naqqazah type: 400,000 dinars per tonne.
b. Al-Mishkhab type: 350,000 dinars per tonne.
c. Other types of rice: 300,000 dinars per tonne.
2. The purchase price for corn:
a. Corncobs: 175,000 dinars per tonne.
b. Corn kernels: 200,000 dinars per tonne. [video shows Saddam Husayn, dressed in olive-green military uniform with the insignia of field marshal, sitting at the head of a table, which is surrounded by members of the RCC and the Iraqi Command of the Ba'th Party, all dressed in olive-green fatigue uniforms. Only RCC members 'Izzat Ibrahim and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid are observed to display military insignia indicating the rank of general]

Saddam Receives Congratulations From Army Commanders

JN2110205395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, staff field marshal and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, received congratulations on his excellency's — may God protect him — winning of the post of Republic of Iraq president in the general referendum from Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, fighter defense minister, the fighters secretary and members of the General Command of the Armed Forces, senior military commanders, and senior officers in our valiant Armed Forces.

The fighters who came to offer congratulations beseeched God Almighty to grant success to the leader president and to bless his efforts for the sake of our great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

His excellency, may God protect him, thanked the officers who congratulated him and wished our dear country and courageous army continued success and triumph. [report followed by a 13-minute silent video clip of Saddam Husayn, dressed in a dark civilian suit, shaking hands with numerous high-ranking military men dressed in white- and khaki-colored ceremonial uniforms and with other high ranking officers dressed in regular fatigue uniforms]

Saddam Receives Barzan al-Tikriti's Cable

JN2110165295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received a cable from Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the UN Geneva Headquarters, in which he pledged to do everything possible to defend the glorious homeland and its interests to achieve the supreme goal of lifting the unfair embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

SAIRI Statement on Results of 'Sham' Referendum

NC2210171795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Relations Department of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement today on the results of the sham referendum as announced by the regime of tyrant Saddam last week. The statement stresses that what happened never means lending legitimacy to tyrant Saddam or accepting him as a ruler of Iraq. The statement says the mujahid forces of the people and the sincere opposition factions will continue their legitimate jihad to salvage the Iraqi people from the captivity of the dictatorship and to remove the ruling gang.

The statement reads in part: The results of the sham referendum on the presidency of dictator Saddam came as no surprise to anyone. Local and world public know the regime's methods of pressuring the masses of our people to obtain the 100 percent result that Saddam wanted. Even some of those in charge of the exercise were not convinced of the result, as disclosed by servile 'Izzat al-Duri, the supervisor of the referendum. It is only natural for things to go this way under the shadow of an oppressive government. We, then, will not be surprised when the world ridicules these governments and their awkward traditions, which cannot even conceal their exposed methods.

The result, counted by Saddam, in itself shows the extent of the tampering and of the threats of revenge and of cutting off people's means of living that the terrorist institutions of the regime practiced to secure what they wanted. Otherwise, how can we imagine a result of 99.96 [percent] coming from governorates with popular opposition to the authority of the dictator, as shown during the Sha'ban 1991 uprising?

Are these the votes of the governorates of Babil, Karbala', and holy al-Najaf, which the regime's armed forces entered to sow death and destruction, shelling them with missiles, destroying their mosques, religious centers, and homes with tanks and bulldozers, and killing innocent people? Even the holy places and tombs were not safe from desecration and attack by heavy weapons.

Are these the votes of the governorates of the south, which the forces of the 3d and 4th Corps entered to do what they did? The many mass graves there stand as a testimony to the practices of the Saddamite military.

Are they the votes of the inhabitants of the marshlands? Those people suffered constant shelling. Their water was poisoned, their animals and crops were killed, and their environment was destroyed. Residents there were uprooted, their houses were burned, and they were left to die of thirst.

Did the votes come from the inhabitants of al-Ramadi, which rebelled against Saddam's rule this year and, as a result, suffered horrible acts of revenge? Did they come from Samarra', whose military sons tried to assassinate criminal Saddam? The city, too, suffered from reprisal.

Did the votes come from the people of Mosul, who staged many revolts against the government? Did they come from Karkuk, which, together with its neighboring regions, is suffering constant oppression?

Did they come from those who got their ears cut off, foreheads stamped, or limbs amputated? Or are they the votes of the families and brothers of thousands of prisoners in horrible public and secret jails?

We expect further suffering and deprivation by our people. As long as the tyrant is there, the crisis will continue and the sanctions and their effects will deepen for the unforeseeable future. Terrorism at home will increase, and the tyrant will use the false results of the referendum to strengthen and perpetuate his dictatorial power. We also fear that further social and economic collapses will take place in Iraq. This will cause more damage to this generation and will physically and psychologically affect the children, as stressed by recent international reports about Iraq.

And soon, the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. The end is for those who are righteous. [Koranic verses]

PUK Leader on Preparations To Overthrow Regime

NC2210162995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan secretary general, has said that preparations are under way to form a unified field command to overthrow the Iraqi regime. In an interview with the BBC Arabic Service, he noted that this move will be taken within the framework of a previous agreement with his eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. He pointed out that the common denominator among the Iraqi opposition forces is the establishment of a democratic alternative, without delving into details. He said: If we agree on a democratic system, all problems can be solved in a democratic way through elections.

Peshmergas Defend Civilians Against Government Forces

NC2110162895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ITTIHAD newspaper, mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, reported today that a military unit belonging to the 'Aflaqite regime ambushed civilian vehicles on the road to (Arjamasht) village in Karkuk [al-Ta'min] Governorate's (Dawda) area on the night of 18/19 October. The members of the 'Aflaqite unit fired on the civilian cars, forcing the citizens to abandon eight (Landbroz) vehicles. The 'Aflaqites then tried to rob the vehicles of any valuables the vehicles contained. Peshmerga heroes of the Tuz 106th Division confronted the hostile unit, however, and forced its members to flee, leaving a quantity of military equipment behind.

'Resistance' Attacks Military Site, Saddam Mural

JN2210151195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of our heroic mujahidin recently carried out a successful attack against the al-Yarmuk Military Enterprise. Our sources report that the attacking group used explosives in the operation to destroy parts of this enterprise which is important to the regime. Many of the regime's men were either killed or wounded.

Our sources added that the regime's mercenaries were placed on maximum alert. They sealed off the area following the operation in search of its perpetrators who safely returned to base. The regime's repressive organs arrested many suspects and took them to an unknown destination.

On another level, a heroic Islamic revolution group carried out a successful operation on the morning of the so-called Saddam referendum. The group placed an explosive near a mural of the despot in the al-Mudaynah district in al-Basrah Governorate. The mural was completely destroyed. With this operation, the mujahidin voiced their rejection of Saddam and his infidel regime.

Kurdish Army Said To Stage Offensive Against PKK

JN2210194295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Oct 95

[All placenames as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Army command stated that in a large-scale offensive targeting the last positions of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] terrorists in Khwa Kurt, the border triangle between Iran and Turkey, to purge the area from the filth of the traitors of the nation, the hero peshmerga of Kurdistan on the night of 21-22 October and in accordance with a carefully- studied plan moved toward Khwa Kurt from various axes. The heroes of Rasgari Corps and the heroic 2d Corps successfully carried out their task by 0800 on 22 October. They purged all of the Brade area where the terrorist PKK had taken up positions, including Kan Kifre, Qalarasht, Teri Tiran, Dele, Kare, Terijara, Rolet, Rawal, Terizara, Lakadafr, Darwan, Kwaru, and Bindele.

The peshmerga offensive continues. We will provide you with details as soon as we receive them.

Presidency Announces Death of Agriculture Minister

JN2110171795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1700 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Presidency Office released a statement sadly and regretfully announcing the death of Mr. Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid al-Janabi, the minister of agriculture, of a heart attack yesterday afternoon while attending the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization] congress in Rome.

The statement praised the late dignitary as one of the best men in Iraq in carrying out his duties.

The late minister had occupied key positions in the state, including the head of the Presidency Office, the mayor of Baghdad, and adviser to the president.

Radio Reports UAE Call For Reconciliation

JN2110210095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United Arab Emirates [UAE] today reiterated its solidarity with Iraq and urged other Arab countries to work on lifting the embargo imposed on it for more than 5 years. In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah said it is high time for Arab countries to respond to calls by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for forgiveness and reconciliation. He added that many Arab interests will be undermined if the Arabs do not expeditiously close their ranks and build an Arab edifice to protect Arab security and interest.

He said: What is happening to the Iraqi people is painful. We cannot be responsible for the deprivation of these people as long as within the framework of Arab solidarity and Arab meetings and consultations, we can remove the reasons which led to this situation and prevent it from happening again.

Last week, Shaykh Zayid called for lifting the economic embargo on iraq and said that it is time to achieve reconciliation among Arab brothers.

Rashid 'Abdallah criticized many calls to divide Iraq and consecrate the deprivation of Iraqi people. He said: This might affect another Arab country. Hence, the situation our region is facing must be changed to serve the interest of all Arabs. He said that on the sidelines of the New York meetings, he will hold discussions with a number of Arab foreign ministers on Shaykh Zayid's call for lifting the embargo on Iraq.

Moreover, the UAE paper AL-BAYAN, demands that the Arab nation and its popular forces exert efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and pressure the United States and the Security Council to stop the inhuman efforts to harm Iraq and its people.

The paper says that the call for achieving Arab reconciliation can be used and turned into a better reality that is capable of growth to rid the Arab nation of fragmentation. AL-BAYAN calls for taking advantage of the available opportunity for an Arab awakening that brings the Arabs together now and not tomorrow because time is running out.

Vice President Ma'ruf To Address UN

JN2210095695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 22 Oct (INA)—Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf arrived here last night. He is leading an Iraqi delegation which will participate in the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The vice president will deliver Iraq's speech on Tuesday afternoon. The speech will discuss Iraq's role as a UN founding member as well as ways to enhance collective work at the United Nations away from selectivity, double standards, and narrow individual interests.

During the visit, the vice president is scheduled to hold a number of meetings with heads of Arab and friendly delegations taking part in the UN celebrations.

Rabin Seeks Direct Negotiations With Syria

TA2010181495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on Syria to start direct negotiations with Israel without any mediators. Rabin was speaking to news correspondents after meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The prime minister also met in New York with several leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; however, a meeting with all the organization members did not take place. The prime minister said he hopes there are no problems between him and the organization, noting that some disagreements are only natural.

At the conclusion of their meeting, Butrus Butrus-Ghali said he was unable to give Mr. Rabin any new information on Ron Arad. Butrus-Ghali added that although the United Nations is celebrating its 50th anniversary, it is on the verge of bankruptcy.

Rabin, Christopher Discuss Talks With Syria

TA2210094295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Hillel Kuttler, Marilyn Henry and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Syria's support of terrorism is harming the negotiations with Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher last night in New York, an Israeli source said.

Rabin told Christopher that Israel is interested in restarting a dialogue according to the understanding reached last June. But he stressed that the support Syria gives Hizbullah and the increase in terror activities supported by the government in Damascus are "sending negative signals that are not helpful for the negotiations," the Israeli official said.

Christopher will also meet early this week with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The three are among the many world leaders attending this week's celebrations of the United Nations' 50th anniversary.

King Hassan of Morocco, also in New York for the UN celebrations, met with Rabin on Friday evening and told him further steps would be taken soon to normalize relations between the two countries, Israeli diplomatic sources said.

An Israeli official said the purpose of last night's discussion between Rabin and Christopher was "to prepare for the al-Shar' meeting and verify with Rabin what al-Shar' has to say in order for Christopher to go to the region."

Depending on the Syrian position, such a visit could occur the first week in November, the official said. Christopher is already due to be in the region at the end of this month for the Amman economic conference, but must return to the US immediately afterwards to open the Balkan peace talks in Ohio.

"No specific dates were discussed," said an Israeli official at the meeting at the Regency Hotel. "At this point, we are looking at continuing the Israeli-Syrian dialogue in Washington."

Talks with al-Shar' two weeks ago in Washington revealed no change in the Syrian position to hold security talks with Israel only at the ambassadorial level. Israel is adamant that Damascus honor its US-brokered commitment to hold such talks between military officials.

Rabin said yesterday he doesn't know of any breakthrough in the talks with Syria. There was no reason to continue with the talks, because the results of Christopher's last visit to the region had not borne fruit, he added, according to Israel Radio. Rabin was speaking following a meeting with former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger.

Kissinger for the first time publicly expressed support for the Israel-Palestinian peace agreement. [passage omitted]

[A report by Razi Barqay in New York on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 22 October carries a recorded passage of Rabin's remarks following the meeting with Christopher in which Rabin says: "I do not know of a breakthrough. We had no reason not to continue the talks with the Syrians, but the Syrians did not abide by agreements obtained during Christopher's visit to the region. I think that such agreements should be honored, and if they are honored, there will be no reason not to continue the negotiations."]

Beilin Sees Room To Reexamine 'Security Zone'

TA2110125795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Interview with Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by Eytan Almog; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Almog] Aren't we sticking to an old concept with regard to the security zone in south Lebanon?

[Beilin] I do not know whether we are clinging to an old concept, but I know we should not. Hence, the prime minister was very right when he said that the issue of the security zone and our presence in south Lebanon should actually be reexamined daily. We made a decision 11 years ago, under very different international circumstances and at a very different juncture in the peace process, and, in the interim, the situation in Lebanon has changed. Consequently, I would not at all rule out a reexamination of the question of south Lebanon; quite the contrary.

It is only natural for the issue to resurface when we experience events such as we did last week. It would be a mistake, however, to make a decision or even to conduct a serious discussion on the issue against the backdrop of those events. I would definitely not propose a withdrawal from the security zone at a time when Hizballah is anxious to see us retreat without any achievement whatsoever. Nevertheless, I believe there is room to seriously consider the issue and make a decision.

A proposal may very well be made to expand the security zone, reduce its size, or remain in the same area determined back then. We should not, however, remain there under the same circumstances and within the same boundaries only because we made a unilateral decision 11 years ago to get out of Lebanon while leaving behind the safety valve known as the security zone.

[Almog] Under what circumstances would you conceive of recommending the expansion of the security zone, perhaps all the way to the al-Litani River?

[Beilin] I do not think that is a serious proposal. If, however, a debate is held and the defense establishment suggests that this or that expansion will improve its ability to defend the northern settlements — which actually are the only factor keeping us in south Lebanon; we have no territorial ambitions there — if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] were to say that such an expansion would make it easier for it to defend the northern settlements, I would definitely give such a proposal serious consideration. [passage omitted]

We must remember that rigidity of mind is very dangerous. We should keep an open mind with regard to strategic and tactical issues. There is definitely room to reconsider and listen to what the enemy is saying. Not everything the enemy says is necessarily nonsense.

[Almog] Does this also apply to al-Asad?

[Beilin] It most certainly does. I am not saying, however, that al-Asad is proposing what al-Sadat did at the time. I think al-Asad is making a terrible mistake from his point of view and, at the same time, harming us by virtue of his apparent unwillingness to go for peace with us and his failure to make the required strategic decision. I believe that he is not doing the Syrian people any favor and that it will be a shame if we fail to attain peace during this government's term. I still hope for a surprise in the next few months, which may be the last months of the window of opportunity. [passage omitted]

Reshuffle in North 'Nothing To Do' With Incidents

TA2210121595 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new round of appointments will take place in the Northern Command soon. It was Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq who decided on this round.

Colonel A., the Nahal Brigade commander, will replace Brigadier General Giyora 'Inbar and will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general. It is not yet clear if Brig. Gen. 'Inbar will be appointed to another IDF [Israel Defense Forces] post. Senior General Staff elements emphasized that Brig. Gen. 'Inbar will end his term as scheduled, and his replacement has nothing to do with the two incidents that occurred in southern Lebanon over the past two weeks.

Brig. Gen. Shmu'el Zucker, commander of IDF forces on the northern border, will also end his term in a few months. He is slated to be promoted to the rank of major general. Brig. Gen. Zucker will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Yomtov Samiya, who was the commander of IDF forces in the Gaza Strip and a member of the negotiating teams for arrangements between Israel and the Palestinians.

Brig. Gen. Beni Lidor, head of the Northern Command staff, will also end his term and will be appointed commander of a regular IDF formation. Lieutenant General Shahaq has not yet decided who will replace Brig. Gen. Lidor. A decision on this will be made in the next few weeks.

Rabin Denies Connection to Attack on Iranian

TA2310090295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer, accompanying Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in New York, and Alberto Messer, YEDI'OT correspondent in Buenos Aires]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli Embassy in Argentina has instituted singular security measures against any possible acts of revenge for the attempted assassination of an Iranian diplomat in Buenos Aires by an unknown man on a motorbike, who managed to escape, two days ago.

Israeli diplomats in the city have been briefed and alerted to the danger of attacks. Ambassador Yitzhaq Aviran, who is in Israel at the moment, is about to return to Argentina.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday denied the Iranian charges that the assassination attempt was the work of "agents linked with Zionist circles." Rabin said yesterday in New York that Israel "had no connection" with the assassination attempt on the Iranian, who had been suspected of involvement in the blast at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 and in last year's explosion at the local Jewish community center. [passage omitted]

EU Official Reacts to Remarks on U.S. Trade

TA2210155995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV ('ASAQIM supplement) in Hebrew 22 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Hadas Manor]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The EU will have to turn to its institutions in Geneva if Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish prefers trade with the United States at Europe's expense by applying a discriminatory economic policy that harms the trade agreement with Europe," Albert Maes, the European Commission representative in Israel, said yesterday in response to Harish's declaration that he would prefer imports from the United States to European imports.

In his meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, Harish said that Israel has an interest in purchasing services and products from the United States instead of Europe because of the large deficit of some $8 billion in the trade balance with Europe while trade with the United States is almost balanced.

Maes made the remarks at a news conference on the occasion of the opening of the Medpartenariat international conference in Israel under the auspices of the Export Institute and the EU.

In Maes' view, the deficit can be better explained by Israel's economic policy rather than by the EU's trade policy.

In response, Eyal Fabian, Harish's economic adviser, said the Ministry of Industry and Trade does not create administrative or legal tools to operate contrary to the agreements, but will encourage the business sector to significantly increase imports from the United States while cutting back on those from Europe.

Government 'Secretly' Funding Pollard Release Group

TA2010194895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Here is a report that could have an impact on Israel's relations with the United States. The Israeli Government has been secretly funding the activities of the Public Committee for Jonathan Pollard. So far, approximately $3 million from the budget of a state institution have been transferred to this committee. Officials at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's bureau refused to comment on this report; however, sources close to the prime minister this evening confirmed the following details:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] This is Amnon Dror, the key person in the Public Committee for Jonathan Pollard. For the past nine years, Dror has been active on behalf of the Israeli spy jailed in the United States. It now transpires that the Israeli Government, which all these years has been careful to deny any direct responsibility for this extremely sensitive issue in the relationship between the two countries, has provided most of the funding for this committee.

[Dror] For quite a few years, we have received our funding from both private and public sources and from — the time has now come to state things clearly — the Israeli Government. I would like to add that this funding has been very generous.

[Rosen] How much?

[Dror] I would prefer that you not ask this question; however, as you already have, I will give you an estimate. I estimate the sum given since the beginning of our activity up to today at something around $3 million.

[Rosen] This generous budget, which is basically unlimited, comes from a state institution. I asked Dror whether Yitzhaq Rabin authorized the sums.

[Dror] Today, during the present government's term, it is Yitzhaq Rabin who gives the authorization; however, the sums started arriving during Yitzhaq Shamir's tenure. [passage omitted]

[Rosen] Dror does not know whether or not the Americans are aware of his links to the government.

[Dror] I assume that they understand that some of the money comes from government sources. Do you see anything wrong with that?

[Rosen] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who arrived in New York several hours ago, is still considering whether to raise the Pollard issue in his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House next week, after he discussed the matter with the President during their previous meeting less than a month ago. Rabin will reach a decision within a few hours. [end recording]

As reported earlier, officials at the prime minister's bureau refused to comment on the report. This was also the case at the U.S. Embassy in Israel. Yitzhaq Shamir, who was prime minister at the time of Pollard's capture, told us today that he had no connection with the affair.

Olmert Sees Uncontrollable Protest Over Jerusalem

TA2210111195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Oct 95 p A4

[Report on interview with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert by Nadav Shragay; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with HA'ARETZ, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said that the plan for Jerusalem — currently being prepared by Ron Pundaq and Ya'ir Hirschfeld, the authors of Oslo A — "is being drafted under the guidance and instructions and following the approval of Minister Yosi Beilin, in an attempt to recreate the Oslo B model, this time for Jerusalem. As far as I know, the practical meaning of the spirit of the new plan will be a division of sovereignty, which necessarily leads to a physical division of the city." The plan, drafted in cooperation with Orient House, addresses the issues of sovereignty, holy sites, and municipal management, among others. It speaks of setting up two city councils — one for the Arab part and another for the Jewish part of the city — with an umbrella council supervising both.

Olmert sharply attacked the government "for ignoring a series of unequivocal findings regarding the activities of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Jerusalem, including the original correspondence between PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction] and the PA that was revealed by Knesset Member Beni Begin last weekend."

"I have no problem with Yasir 'Arafat because I simply do not believe him," Olmert said. "I do not trust him. For me, he is basically a cheat and the documents he signs are not worth the paper they are printed on. At the same time, I often ask myself — sometimes with astonishment and sometimes in despair — my God, where is the Government of Israel? Today, it is absolutely clear that there is a gap between the government's so-called statements regarding its loyalty to united Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital under Israeli sovereignty, and its actual deeds. There is a gap between the prime minister's announcements and his deeds, or rather misdeeds, in numerous instances. They are flagrantly overt, abhorrent, and terribly cynical."

Olmert also lashed out at Israel's agreement, made in Oslo B, to introduce UN observers "into Jerusalem, which is under Israeli sovereignty, to supervise the elections."

"UN observers in Jerusalem are a concept of a time that is long gone. Bringing them back now will take Israel back to the 1950's in terms of the mentality of our neighbors and our total dependence on external powers. Not to mention the fact that in this act, Israel will be openly admitting that the eastern part of Jerusalem is, in fact, outside our absolute jurisdiction. This directly follows from the fact that elections will be held in Jerusalem. They say there will be no ballot boxes. This is a lie. A man would come into a post office, an authorized person will hand him a voting paper, take it back, and put all the papers into a box which, accidentally, may not look like a ballot box, but this is just what it will be."

According to Olmert, this is a fraudulent act by a government that is trying to cheat the people of Israel. "Those who are now trying to mislead the public about the PA elections that will be held in Jerusalem are asking for acts of protest that could go out of control. This is not Jericho; this is no bypass road; this is heartbreak road. Over the past several months, I have been hearing about a growing number of people whose hearts are being ripped apart by the acts of this government. I fear that this step regarding Jerusalem might cause tempers to rise to an uncontrollable level."

According to Olmert, the current situation regarding the city's future status is a disaster waiting to happen, which is due to "the government's unclear and dishonest stand." Olmert went on to say that the current government, as well as a Likud government if it is set up, will find it hard to conduct the struggle over Jerusalem because the Palestinians are already establishing facts on the ground with the knowledge and almost the encouragement of the current government. Olmert noted that the Jerusalem Forum, of which senior security officials and senior ministers are members, has not convened for several months. He claimed that Police Minister Moshe Shahal avoids convening the forum "because he wishes to avoid answering difficult questions and explaining the meaning of what is taking place on the ground. He would rather not deal with this meaning."

Knesset No-Confidence Vote Set for 30 Oct

TA2310104195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon the Knesset will convene for the opening of the winter session of the 13th Knesset's last year. Deputy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will open the session with a political statement, which will be followed by a speech by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. All the factions of the house will take part in the political debate today.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 23 October adds: "The vote at the end of the political debate that will open the Knesset's winter session will be a vote of no confidence in the government, following a demand by the Tzomet faction. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that the vote will, therefore, be held next week, on 30 October]

Third Way Said To Make Decision for Knesset Run

TA2310052495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The management of the Third Way movement decided last night that it will run in the next Knesset elections. The decision will be brought for the approval of the movement's council.

In the Third Way meeting last night, it was agreed to keep this decision secret. Our party affairs correspondent has learned that, in the meeting, Reserves Major General Tzvi Zamir and poet Hayim Guri claimed that there is no need to rush to set up a political party. Last night's decision does not determine the date on which the Third Way will change its status from an extra-parliamentary movement to a political party.

Janin Pullout To Begin 13 Nov, Ahead of Schedule

TA2210101695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Oct 95 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following an agreement between Major General Gabi Ofir, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in Judaea and Samaria, and his Palestinian counterpart Gen. al-Hajj Isma'il, the IDF will move up its redeployment in the Janin area by four days. Military sources said this is a goodwill gesture to the Palestinians.

According to the agreement, the IDF will evacuate Janin on 13 November, four days ahead of schedule. The evacuation will last a day or two, and the last one to leave will be the brigade commander. The IDF has beefed up its forces in the area to secure an orderly evacuation process.

According to the plan, it is possible that the evacuation of other cities will also take place earlier than initially planned, but this depends on the outcome of the talks between Gen. Ofir and Gen. Isma'il. According to the initial plan, the end date for redeployment in the Tulkarm area is 10 December, in Nabulus and Qalqilyah 17 December, and in Bethlehem 21 December. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Vice President Briefs King on 'New Policy'

JN2310101095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 23 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that lengthy talks were held last week between his majesty the king and Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf.

An informed source told AL-MAJD that the talks, which lasted several hours and included a banquet hosted by King Husayn in honor of his Iraqi guest, dealt in detail with relations between Jordan and Iraq. The two sides expressed desire to maintain and develop these relations despite possible differences in viewpoints.

The source added that Ma'ruf, whose visit was shrouded in tight secrecy, briefed the king on the new policy the Iraqi leadership is pursuing in the internal and external arenas following Iraq's recent move to constitutional legitimacy following the election of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for another term.

Ma'ruf, who arrived in Amman on his way to the United States for receive medical treatment, stayed at the Guest House in Jabal Amman at the king's invitation. He received a large number of Jordanian officials and was given a warm official welcome during his stay in Amman while awaiting a visa for the United States.

Energy Minister Views Oil Ties With Iraq

JN2210184995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Oct 95 p 8

[Interview with Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, by Ahmad al-Hasban; place and date not given — published in conjunction with the Lebanese magazine AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Hasban] You recently returned from the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. You agreed there on some Jordanian-Iraqi projects. What are these?

[Darwazah] These are 100 percent Jordanian projects. However, oil is imported from Iraq. The oil pipeline will start from Iraq, specifically from al-Hadithah, and end in al-Zarqa'.

As you know, we are currently transporting oil from Iraq to Jordan via tanker trucks. This is an expensive and very exhausting process, especially when you consider the road and the several road accidents that involve oil-laden trucks. The project we are considering is to build a pipeline to pump oil from the source in Iraq to the refinery in al-Zarqa', changing the means of transportation currently used.

[Al-Hasban] Does the building of the oil pipeline mean there is a tendency to continue to import oil from Iraq?

[Darwazah] Of course, we are an oil-importing country and it is in our interest not to insist on importing it from any one source, except in accordance with Jordanian interests, which we consider to be above any other interest.

[Al-Hasban] But does this mean there is an insistence to continue importing Iraqi oil for a long time to come?

[Darwazah] We will continue to import oil from Iraq because the conditions according to which we get oil from this source are better than the conditions for any other source.

[Al-Hasban] Can you brief us on these conditions?

[Darwazah] These are financial and economic conditions that are based on trade exchange. We give them commodities and we receive oil from them at reduced price.

[Al-Hasban] Can you specify this in figures?

[Darwazah] It is difficult to specify in figures because this issue is related to world prices. But they are certainly excellent conditions. We give them Jordanian goods in exchange for oil.

[Al-Hasban] Does this mean that recent political events between Iraq and Jordan have not brought about any obstacles?

[Darwazah] There are no political events that have caused obstacles. All that Jordan is saying is that it is very keen on Iraq's unity and on creating good living standards for the Iraqi people because everything that affects Iraq affects us directly. We are very concerned about Iraq and the great Iraqi people, and we wish them a better and a more dignified life.

[Al-Hasban] How much will the oil pipeline project cost and who will finance it?

[Darwazah] We do not consider financing a big problem because the pipeline will save us huge sums of money. One can say that the oil pipeline project will break even in four or five years.

[Al-Hasban] Does this means there are other problems?

[Darwazah] Yes, the problem is: Will the United Nations allow us to build such a pipeline and to send pipes and pumps to Iraq? As you known, Iraq cannot import anything without permission from the United Nations.

[Al-Hasban] Have you filed a request with the United Nations?

[Darwazah] We have not yet made an official request to the United Nations to allow us to build this pipeline. We are in the process of completing studies before filing the request.

[Al-Hasban] What studies?

[Darwazah] Economic feasibility studies.

[Al-Hasban] We have learned that maintenance work is now in progress on the Tapline, which connects Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Is there any intention to import Saudi oil?

[Darwazah] This pipeline undergoes constant maintenance work. According to the agreement between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the Jordanian Government is responsible for maintenance work on this pipeline. The Jordanian Government pays around $1 million for the maintenance and service of this pipeline. On the other hand, we wish to have several oil supply sources on which we can depend so that we will have an alternative if any of our supply sources is interrupted for any reason. As you know, in 1990 the Saudi oil pipeline was shut, so the alternative we had was to transport oil via tanker trucks from Iraq.

[Al-Hasban] In your search for alternatives, did you contact any country to provide an alternative supply source?

[Darwazah] We did not ask anyone because we did not need that. However, the pipeline is there.

[Al-Hasban] There have been certain Kuwaiti statements about Kuwait's readiness to supply Jordan with oil. Are there any contacts with Kuwait?

[Darwazah] No contacts have been held in this regard.

[Al-Hasban] What about the refinery which will be built in al-'Aqabah?

[Darwazah] This is a future project. An oil refinery will be built in al-'Aqabah city to export oil.

[Al-Hasban] At what stage is project?

[Darwazah] It is still in its preliminary stage. We are conducting the necessary studies. The idea is that there should be a refinery overlooking the Red Sea to supply the region with its need of refined oil and its byproducts, whether it is Africa, the Far East, or Europe. These details, however, are up to the company that will build the refinery.

[Al-Hasban] Does the project belong to the private sector?

[Darwazah] Yes, it does.

[Al-Hasban] We have learned that you will supply the Palestinian National Authority with oil?

[Darwazah] The National Authority has not yet decided anything. Nor has it defined what it wants or needs exactly. However, Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir instructed us to supply the PNA with its needs of oil byproducts.

[Al-Hasban] Will Iraq, for example, be the source of that oil?

[Darwazah] No. The main condition is that the oil exported to the NA should not come from Iraq. As I have said, our brothers in the NA have not made any demand. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasban] What is the status of the Qatari gas project?

[Darwazah] Talks are still under way between the Qatari Government and the U.S. Aro company. After the talks conclude, Jordan may become a center for receiving and storing gas. Jordan would be able to buy its needs for oil from the center and would export the rest.

[Al-Hasban] Does the choosing of al-'Aqabah for that project have any connection to peace?

[Darwazah] It has no connection to peace. Companies are searching for profit. They believe they can sell oil to Jordan and to neighboring regions. [passage omitted]

Minister on West Bankers' Passports, Camps

JN2210205495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad met with several local newspaper writers and columnists at the Interior Ministry today. He reviewed with them issues related to passports, professional associations, and political parties. The details of the meeting are contained in the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said: A Jordanian passport holder is not necessarily Jordanian, for there is a big difference between the two. The Nationality Law of 1954 provides a thorough definition of Jordanians and naturalized Jordanians. He added: The recent measure, which authorized the replacement of two-year passports with five-year passports, came upon the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn for purely humanitarian reasons. Holders of such passports remain subject to the instructions issued in the wake of the disengagement decision. The green cards indicative of their Palestinian nationality will remain in force.

Hammad went on to say: One of the basic humanitarian reasons that prompted this measure was the fact that some neighboring countries and other countries banned holders of two-year passports from entering their territory arguing that these passports were valid only for two years. Others took this measure just because these passports showed that their holders were born in this or that Palestinian city.

Hammad said: The last page in the new passport will state that its holder carries a green card. This will show that he is Palestinian and not Jordanian, although he bears a Jordanian passport. The holders of such passports do not have the right to take part in general elections in terms of voting or nomination. Voter lists were prepared in accordance with conditions and documents known to all.

Hammad touched on the issue of the refugee camps, saying: Some people have blown the issue out of proportion, whereas others have linked the issue to reported political schemes regarding the Middle East. Disputes over the possession of the lands on which refugee camps were built are nothing new. Some disputes were brought to the competent courts 16 years ago. In some of these cases, the owners of the lands in question demanded the evacuation of their lands, whereas others demanded an increase in the rent of the land.

He added that the reports on the so-called resettlement of camp dwellers is utterly ungrounded. His Majesty King Husayn, he noted, has dispelled doubts on this issue with his recent statements.

The interior minister also spoke on expatriate labor and the end of the deadline given them to rectify their affairs, saying that the government will not resort to collective deportation, as is being circulated by some. They will be given another chance to rectify their affairs.

The interior minister also spoke on professional associations, saying: As a government, we are not opposed to the existence of these associations. The king's letter of designation to the current government underlined the need to maintain the professional status of the associations and to encourage them to perform their duties in terms of promoting professions, caring for members, and adhering to their original goals. The current situation is such that there is a need for a legislation that streamlines the activities of associations. The government is serious about drafting such a legislation. It is our hope that we will be able to submit this draft legislation to the upcoming regular session of the Parliament. [end recording]

Chief Editor, Correspondent To Face Prosecution

JN2210125395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Oct 95 p 23

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamal al-Zu'bi, Amman's public prosecutor, has issued an order referring the following to the Amman Court of First Instance: Jihad al-Khazin, chief editor of the London-based AL-HAYAH daily newspaper; Salamah Ni'mat, the paper's correspondent in Amman, and AL-HAYAH International Publishing Company in its capacity as the body responsible for the actions of its employees and representatives and for the material published in the paper.

The public prosecutor's decision came after investigations were completed regarding AL-HAYAH correspondent's report published on 20 September in Amman under the title "Jordanian Fears of Iraqi Infiltration," in which he attributes to well-informed Jordanian sources reports on fictitious Jordanian companies working in the interest of Iraq. The correspondent claimed that there is a list of 42 Jordanian journalists and officials, including a minister in the current government, who are on Iraq's payroll and working to create a current opposing the Jordanian official stance on Iraq.

Legal sources have told AL-DUSTUR that the Court of First Instance yesterday received the case file, which includes four charges. These charges are: Failure to adhere to accuracy, honesty, and objectivity in commenting on news reports and events in violation of Article 9 of the Press and Publications Law; harming national unity, inciting crimes, and planting the seeds of hatred and hostility in society in violation of Article 40 of the Press and Publications Law; slander and defamation in violation of the Penal Code; and practicing unlicensed correspondence with a foreign newspaper, in violation of the rules governing media and news agency correspondents. The last charge applies to correspondent Salamah Ni'mat.

AL-DUSTUR has also learned that the public prosecutor said that what AL-HAYAH published is a devoid of the truth. The correspondent, he said, was not able to identify the names of those he had accused of being on the Iraqi authorities' payroll. Neither could he specifically identify his sources or the Jordanian authorities to which he attributed statements mentioned in his report. The public prosecutor said that the AL-HAYAH correspondent was neither accurate nor honest in his report which contained general and ambiguous statements that offended all the Jordanian officials as well as the Jordanian political and economic Administration. Moreover, he has offended the Jordanian journalists and the Jordanian Journalists Association, which is the body representing all Jordanian reporters.

The Amman Court of First Instance will hold its first session on the case early next month.

President al-Hirawi Addresses Nation

NC2010184495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to the nation on the occasion of the extension of his term in office; place and date not given — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] O Lebanese. Six years ago, we refused to have a homeland where most of the news consisted of obituaries and where its sons were burdened by anxieties and losses. Thus came the salvation and the restoration of the state. Today, the homeland is calling on us to build and to complete the liberation. Those who have spent their lives serving Lebanon cannot ignore this appeal. Thank you all, Chamber of Deputies, government, and citizens for this precious trust. May God help us to fulfill our task. I derive the strength to defend our homeland's rights from your unity. Continuation becomes significant when we all work together to continue the achievements for the sake of Lebanon.

O Lebanese. The liberation of the south and western al-Biqa' from the Israeli occupation is a priority for our national action regardless of Israel's attrition, shelling, detentions, and destruction. We will not relinquish our territories and we will not bargain over our sovereignty. Resisting the occupation is an expression of a rejection of aggression. Resistance operations will cease when the occupation ends. Condemnation of our commitment to our sovereignty over our territories is a violation of the peace process and of the meaning of the word peace. We will not let Israel succeed in depicting us as being against peace when it is putting off the implementation of the UN resolutions, foremost of them Resolution 425. We support a just and comprehensive peace. We joined the negotiations for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace. The Lebanese and Syrian tracks in the negotiations are parallel and this remains our constant policy and we will not deviate from it regardless of Israel's aggressions.

O Lebanese. If the occupation, with all its burdens and consequences, is still preventing our country from rising as we want it to rise, then our domestic unity is the guarantee of our success in retrieving our sovereignty and entity. Everything will be lost if our unity disappears. Our unity becomes entrenched when we rally behind the state, when all of us — supporters and opposition — commit ourselves to work for the public interest, when no party vanquishes another, and when no one uproots another. The republican palace has been and will remain a door open to all Lebanon and to all the Lebanese. Participation was necessary to save us from the tribulation and is also important to rebuilding peace in our country.

O Lebanese, detachment from pragmatism most often leads to mistakes and delusions. But pragmatism does not mean managing the reality just to let it stay as it is. It means moving from the current reality toward what it should be. We want to develop security into social safety by completing the reconstruction process, by completing the return of all the displaced Lebanese to their villages and areas, and by strengthening our democratic system and public freedoms.

Balanced development is the backbone of survival, as well as of liberation and stability. Through development our affiliation shapes up.

We want the capable groups to rush to partake of Lebanon's reconstruction. The integration of the roles of the state and private initiatives by the Lebanese is the practical approach to revival.

Enhancing production and opening foreign markets to our industrial and agricultural exports are vital to our economic recovery. The state and all the able persons are invited to encourage Lebanese, Arab, and friendly investments in our country.

O Lebanese. When each authority undertakes its task in the framework of cooperation, specialization, and balanced action provided by the Constitution things take their right course. We are before a major reorganization task. I have been convinced of the need to review some constitutional provisions. I will submit the necessary amendment proposals to the Council of Ministers to close the gaps that appeared and to improve performance and interrelation among the different institutions.

Frankly speaking, this is not the administration we aspire for. We want to cleanse the administration of nepotism and sectarianism and strengthen it with efficient and ethical cadres. We must help the control institutions to enable them to exercise their powers.

The state addresses the call to everybody. Accomplishments were made when we were cohesive and mistakes were committed when we drifted apart. The country is for all and the state is for all. Reconstruction is our collective responsibility wherever we might be, in the government or the opposition, in provinces or cities, in the country or abroad. Our country needs concerted efforts and collective ambitions to make our future.

We have to complete our work to implement the articles of the national accord document, primarily that concerning administrative decentralization, which makes it possible to reconsider the administrative division. We are about to present a bill on parliamentary elections that suits all and guarantees the soundness of popular representation. We are also making preparations to hold the elections of municipal councils and mayors. We will continue to work by the logic of national fatherhood, firm state, and the people who are bigger than all the burdens and challenges.

O Lebanese. The course of cooperation and coordination with Syria and embodying it through the enhancement of fraternal ties is a strategic decision that serves Lebanon's and Syria's interests. The sacrifices Syria has made for Lebanon and its support certified President al-Asad's fulfillment of Syria's Arab commitments as well as the integrity of the relations between our two countries. Sound Lebanon provides support for Syria as much as a strong Syria provides support for Lebanon. Events and lessons in the past six years have shown that the establishment of cooperation enhances stability in the two fraternal countries. It is the great people who build relations on the basis of dignity and mutual respect.

This collective lebanese choice emanates from the credibility of our loyalty to our pan-Arab affiliation. We have become exemplary in defending Arab dignity by defending our legitimate rights. In this context, we believe that consolidating Lebanon's international relations supports the success of our march.

O Lebanese. With hard work and good choices we will be able to realize our goals. You must know that the state structure cannot enjoy stability unless it embodies a great culture and is motivated by enhanced production. You must know that Lebanon's role cannot take shape unless we take part in making the history of the region of which we are part.

Let schools, universities, cultural and information centers, social institutions, factories, farms, shops, tourism, and all other sectors set out to prove Lebanon's renewed existence in the coming period. This is the time for action before anything else.

I hope I will hand over the trust after all Lebanon has returned to all the Lebanese. Long live Lebanon.

Libya Asks Arab Defense Council To Meet on South

NC2010181595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Libyan Charge d'affaires 'Ali al-Shami visited the Bustrus Palace [the Foreign Ministry] today. He conveyed to Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, Foreign Ministry secretary general, a Libyan message on the situation in the south.

After the meeting, al-Shami said Israeli threats against Lebanon prompted Libya to act and ask Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to call a meeting of the Arab Joint Defense Council to devise plans and exert efforts to prevent Israel from attacking Lebanon.

A prominent diplomatic source at the Foreign Ministry commented on the Libyan request. He said Lebanon is the one concerned with such a request. Lebanon, he added, will request such a meeting in light of developments in the south.

Buwayz Opposes Arab Meeting

NC2110095395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to Libya's endeavor to hold a meeting of the Arab Defense Council to discuss the situation in the south, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has informed the Arab League that Lebanon is not willing now to hold an extraordinary Arab League meeting to discuss the Israeli threats. Diplomatic sources said that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid that Lebanon is willing to continue direct, bilateral contacts with countries in and outside the region to pressure Israel.

Minister Urges Unity, Support for 'Resistance'

NC2110075695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has warned that any Israeli military operation will be confronted by military operations against Israel. He stressed that Israel cannot withstand the Resistance strikes.

The defense minister added that Israel cannot carry out a military incursion because it would be very costly and painful. He expressed surprise over the U.S. stand, which tried to hold the Lebanese Government responsible for the killing of Zionist soldiers. He stressed the need to support the Resistance and called for unifying the ranks to deny the Zionists the opportunity to sow sedition between the Resistance and the government or between the Resistance and the citizens.

Nasrallah: Syria-Israel Track Not To Affect 'Resistance'

JN2010195995 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1654 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah; place not given; by Salim Badawi in the studio; from "The Event" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badawi] How do you explain the heavy casualties among Israeli troops as a result of two limited operations in light of recent reports on the training and arming of Lebanese resistance elements?

[Nasrallah] This security breakthrough is not new. Months ago, the Islamic resistance carried out a martyrdom operation which required a high level of accuracy in terms of technology and security; I allude to the martyr Salah Ghandur operation. Before that, the resistance carried out the al-Dabshah position storming operation which gave a great shock to the Israeli entity's political and military establishments.

For us this is a natural thing, an expected thing. This is a natural development of all enlightened movements of jihad that fight for the aims we are fighting for.

[Badawi] What are your expectations concerning a possible Israeli retaliation, now that the Israeli cabinet has given the green light to the army and to Antoine Lahd's militia to deal painful blows to you?

[Nasrallah] In any case, we read in the papers today that the enemy prime minister admits he is incapable of liquidating Hizballah militarily, that there is no alternative to a political solution. We think that Israelis today are thinking of carrying out operations in order to rehabilitate or restore moral balance, if you will. They may resort to certain retaliatory operations. In any case, we as a resistance are out there in the field and are being exposed to daily aggression in terms of our people, families, and homeland. The very existence of occupation is a daily and continuous aggression. We presume, and we have to presume, that everything is possible, that we must be prepared and ready for any eventuality.

[Badawi] How do you evaluate the statement that there is a connection between the escalation of military action in the south and the stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Nasrallah] This is absolutely untrue. The resistance in the south is a reaction to the occupation. It was there before the Madrid conference and continued after this conference. As long as there is occupation, there will always be resistance. This resistance, especially the Islamic resistance launched in 1988 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, has not been subject to political considerations in terms of negotiations or lack of negotiations. Resistance operations are subject to the extent of the combat-readiness of the mujahidin, the field circumstances, the availability of direct military targets, and the field action.

A stalemate or movement in the negotiations has no positive or negative effect on resistance operations. Resistance men see occupiers in front of them, and they direct blows at them whenever they can, irrespective of any other political consideration.

[Badawi] Can you emphasize that a reactivation of the Syrian-Israeli track will not affect the momentum of military action in southern Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] Never, never. I assure you that it will have no effect. For instance, please remember that when Clinton came to Damascus and there was talk of substantive progress, understanding on prisoners and other things, and that based on this a meeting was held between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in Washington, the entire region lived in an atmosphere created by a so-called genuine and substantive progress in the negotiations. However, this did not affect the resistance's performance at all. The resistance continued to carry out its work and jihad as though nothing of the sort had happened.

Nasrallah Wants Israel Out of Border Strip

NC2310101395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Speech by Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah at "the 47th-day commemoration of the massacre at Hula," in Beirut; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few months ago, I read in a foreign newspapers a few months ago, that there is an important discussion on an issue of concern, particularly for the people of the occupied border strip. There are discussions within the Israeli Government on the usefulness of staying in the occupied border strip and the possibility of withdrawing from the strip without a peace agreement; in other words, without the 17 May agreement, without Oslo, without Taba, without Madrid. Fine. We want the Israelis to leave the strip, but we have always stated that we want them to leave our land without getting any prizes or rewards. We do not want to evict the occupier from part of our land only to give him permission to intrude anywhere in our country, and give him control over our water, security, political decisions, culture, or media. No. This is an invading and occupying force which should get out of our land without conditions, restrictions, or rewards for doing so. Is there anyone in the world who would reward someone for killing his son? That is what they want of Lebanon. That is what Israel wants the Arabs to do. Israel occupies our land, commits crimes against us, and then expects to receive rewards for what it did.

I thought that perhaps this proposal had appeared in some foreign press and that the origins or sources of these reports are unknown. However, this week we all heard the Israeli Knesset and Government. Some Israeli ministers have spoken out frankly. There is a great deal of discussion and talk going on among Israeli public about the usefulness of occupying the strip. They are wondering what they are doing in the strip. The fact that Rabin has admitted that occasionally, they discuss the usefulness of staying in the occupied border strip. This is a great victory for the logic of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon.

Hizballah Denies Link Between Talks, Fighting

NC2110082495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah believes that a qualitative change in the Islamic Resistance operations is not something new. A few months ago, the Islamic Resistance carried out a martyrdom operation, the martyr Salah Ghandur operation. This required good security and technical accuracy. Shortly before that, the al-Dabshah post was stormed, shaking Israel's political and military institutions. This is a natural development for any conscious jihad movement.

Answering a question on Israeli threats, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah said in a radio interview that the Israelis are trying to respond through revenge operations. We should assume that anything can happen and should be prepared for all eventualities.

On linkage between the escalation in the south and the freeze in the Syrian-Israeli track of the talks, the Hizballah secretary general said this is not true at all. The Resistance in the south is a reaction to the occupation. It existed before the Madrid conference and continued after it. So long as there is occupation, there will be resistance. This resistance, particularly the Islamic Resistance, has never, since it was launched, and will never at any point in time give in to considerations of a political nature, the negotiations, or any other considerations. He affirmed that in its operations, the Resistance submits only to the extent of the mujahidin's preparedness and circumstances in the field. The Resistance provides the military targets and the action in the field. A freeze or progress in the negotiations has neither a positive nor a negative effect on the activities of the Resistance.

Hizballah Radio: Israel Considering 'Pulling Out'

NC2110074895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Has Israel started thinking of pulling out of south Lebanon, or is it preparing for a major military operation after the losses it has suffered as a result of its longstanding occupation? These questions are now being seriously raised in debates in many places, especially in occupied Palestine, since the recent Islamic Resistance strikes have greatly affected the occupation army. Observers consider a withdrawal more likely because Israel no longer benefits from its occupation of the south; it is now better for Israel to avoid losses by pulling its soldiers back into occupied Palestine.

The Israeli Government has indeed started discussing this issue. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that Israel's security outlook in Lebanon is changeable, and that the occupation army constantly assesses the changes. Linking his forces presence in the south with the [former] presence of the Palestinians, Rabin noted that the problem no longer exists. He said the Israeli Government is restudying the need for the occupied region.

Rabin is said to be studying a document providing for the occupation forces' withdrawal from the south without a settlement with Syria. Another study calls for a pullout in return for a price.

Hizballah Officials on 'Resistance' Attacks, U.S.

NC2210080295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shakyh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, has warned the Zionist enemy against carrying out any reckless attempt against civilians or villages. He said that the response will be severe and painful. Shaykh Qasim said the enemy's remarks about troop withdrawal were prompted by the outcome of the painful blows dealt by the Resistance operations.

Shaykh Qasim ruled out that the withdrawal would occur during the current stage because the enemy's measures are aimed at establishing the occupation and at forcing Lebanon to make concessions similar to those made by 'Arafat and others. But the Islamic Resistance will not allow any concessions to be made to the enemy, Shaykh Qasim added.

The Hizballah official added that the occupation forces' measures had failed to withstand the Resistance fighters' strikes. He said that the enemy leaders' lies about the size of their losses will not deceive anyone and their scenarios will not mislead the public. It is obvious that the Israeli enemy's capabilities are not sufficient to protect its soldiers against the Resistance operations, Shaykh Qasim said.

The deputy secretary general condemned the U.S. stand on the events in the south. He said that Israel is the U.S. spoiled brat, noting that the current [peace] plan is being implemented at the expense of all the Arabs and the Muslims. He said that the Islamic Resistance is fully prepared to face all eventualities.

Meanwhile, Hizballah official in al-Biqa' Muhammad Yaghi has urged the Lebanese leaders and all the official and popular institutions to give moral and financial support to the fighters of the brave Islamic Resistance so that it will remain the basic and only option for liberation and victory.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, Yaghi said that the Resistance path remains the only way to confront this arrogant enemy, who only understands the logic of force. He said that the Islamic Resistance fighters are always on a state of maximum alert and preparedness to foil any Zionist aggression. He said: We must expect anything from the Zionist enemy due to the increasing Zionist media campaigns.

Deputy Yaghi said that the Resistance and Hizballah are stronger than all the threats and all the methods of intimidation used by the Zionist enemy. He said: We are not afraid of this enemy regardless of the size of its attacks because we are confident that victory will come from God.

Hizballah Leader Says Ready for 'Any Aggression'

NC2110083495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Zionist occupation is still shocked by the painful Islamic Resistance operations. [passage omitted]

An Islamic Resistance leader stressed that the mujahidin are ready to repulse any aggression the enemy may launch. The leader said: We always take precautionary measures. The enemy knows that it is not on a picnic and that it will pay a very heavy price for any foolish act. The enemy will find us waiting for it, and the response will be in kind.

The Islamic Resistance has announced to the Lebanese people and the Islamic nation the martyrdom of mujahid Ni'mah Muhammad Husayfi, the hero of confrontations in Western al-Biqa'. Born in Dibbin in 1973, he joined several military campaigns and participated in many jihad missions.

More on 'Resistance' Warnings

NC2210184995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has announced that the Resistance is developing its capabilities to annihilate Israeli occupation in south Lebanon. The party renewed its threats that it will retaliate in the appropriate way against the Hebrew state if its aggressions harm civilians. Deputy Muhammad Ra'd, head of the Political Council of the fundamentalist party, said: We are adopting a policy of developing Resistance capabilities to continue the annihilation of the Israeli occupation, and we will secure everything necessary to undermine this occupation.

Reacting to a statement by 'Amiram Levin, Israeli commander of the northern region, that the arm of his forces is able to reach any Hizballah official and member, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah asked: Had Levin's arm been able to reach any place, would he have waited until yesterday to say that? If that was really the case, Nasrallah added, Levin would have implemented his threats. In a ceremony in Hayy al-Sullum in Beirut's southern suburb, Nasrallah called for vigilance to confront all situations. He said: No matter how many of us they kill, resistance will continue.

For his part, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim warned Israel against perpetrating any reprisal acts targeting individuals or villages. Retaliation will be tough and painful, he said.

Tension, Fighting Continue in South

Israeli Shelling Reported

NC2110073295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The army's deserted barracks came under 81-mm shell fire from the occupation forces' position in al-Dabshah early today. The enemy personnel manning the Bayt Yahun position bombarded the surrounding areas with 81-mm shells. An Israeli tank deployed in the same position fired several rounds against 'Ayta al-Jabal.

Elsewhere, Israeli helicopters flew over 'Alman last night on reconnaissance sorties. The outskirts of Qabrikha and Wadi al-Saluqi were shelled from the al-Qantarah position.

Further on Shelling

NC2210091895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces resumed their shelling of southern areas this morning. The Iqlim al-Tuffah ridges, particularly areas of al-Jabal al-Rafi' were subjected to fierce bombardment at 1000. More than 50 rounds landed on the areas in 30 minutes. Furthermore, Mazra'at al-Hamra', Kafr Tibnit, and Arnun also came under shell fire from the occupation forces' positions in Qal'at al-Shaqif.

'Fierce' Clashes Reported

NC2210183795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source in Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] said two military posts came under attack this afternoon. The source reported no casualties. However, security sources in Sidon said an Israeli soldier was injured. Police in Marj 'Uyun said that afterwards, Israeli warplanes and helicopters staged mock raids over areas opposite the central sector.

Hizballah today claimed responsibility for a series of operations against the Israeli forces, pointing out direct hits. Our correspondent in the south told us earlier that at 1630, the Resistance attacked Qal'at al-Shaqif, al-Burj, and 'Ali al-Tahir positions. Fierce clashes are taking place between the Resistance and Israeli forces, and Israeli artillery is shelling the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, al-Nabatiyah al-Tahta, Kafr Tibnit, [name indistinct], Mayfadun, and Yahmur. In the shelling against al-Nabatiyah, citizen [name indistinct] was seriously injured and taken to the hospital in Sidon.

'Resistance' Attack Reported

NC2310084695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroes of the Islamic Resistance from the Martyrs Husayn Sa'd and Hasan Hayik Group attacked a mechanized Zionist patrol on the al-Zaffatah Arnun road yesterday. They showered shells and machine-gun fire on it. They hit an M-113 armored personnel carrier. The members of the patrol were all either injured or killed. At the same time, the Martyr 'Abbas Salman Group attacked the 'Ali al-Tahir post and destroyed its fortifications. The fire support unit attacked an Israeli post in Qal'at Arnun-al-Shaqif, and inflicting injuries.

The enemy radio acknowledged the operation, stating that a missile hit a Zionist military vehicle on the Arnun road and injured one person.

SLA Intercepts 'Terrorist' Infiltrators

NC2110084895 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops attacked a terrorist group while it was trying to infiltrate into the border area last night. Our correspondent has learned that a tank, which was deployed on the Bayt Yahun crossing, monitored a terrorist group last night. The tank shelled the group, scoring direct hits. However, there have been no immediate reports on casualties.

Meanwhile, Hizballah admitted that a terrorist was killed during the fighting that raged between an Israeli force and a terrorist group in the Western al-Biqa' last week. It should be recalled that this terrorist group was responsible for the al-Mahmudiyah operation that left three Israeli soldiers dead. The [pro-Hizballah] Voice of Light radio last night admitted that terrorist Ni'mah Muhammad Husayfi was killed in the Western al-Biqa' on Saturday [14 October]. [passage omitted]

Army Commander Inspects Units in South

NC2010170995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud inspected the Lebanese Army's forward units deployed in the south today. He saw their preparedness to deal with Israeli threats.

Giving instructions to unit commanders, General Lahhud stressed the need to be alert to the Israeli occupation forces' movements and to confront any attack. He emphasized that the Lebanese Army's steadfastness is a protecting shield for the steadfast people in the south and noted that resistance to occupation is an obvious legitimate right for the citizens until occupation ends.

Elsewhere, in an act indicating their barbarism and criminality, and not the first of its kind, enemy warplanes today dropped suspicious toy-like objects over farms and the Irzay Town in the Tyre Governorate. Some of the objects exploded on impact which helped in their discovery.

A resident of Burj Qallawiyah suffered various injuries when he found a booby-trapped watch on the al-Qa'qa'iyah Bridge.

Security authorities cautioned residents in the forward villages not to touch or pick up any unusual object, especially toys, before checking them.

Rabin, Peres Statements on Talks Criticized

JN2210115895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's crafty and procrastinating methods which are part of its policy toward the regional peace process. It says: By using these methods, Israel confirms that it is not committed to the principles and bases of the peace initiative which seeks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH says: The overall Israeli methods, which reflect its rejection of a just and comprehensive peace, are now a major obstacle to this peace and to the efforts made in this regard.

The paper asserts that the various methods used by the Rabin government will not undermine the consistent and principled Syrian position. This position adheres to rights, dignity, and liberation of all occupied Arab territories. The paper points out that the Syrian position has drawn the solidarity and support of the nation's masses and entire world. This position has also placed the Rabin government at an impasse and exposed its allegations about peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: After the peace process entered a phase of dormancy as a result of the Israeli positions, U.S. diplomacy is attempting to make intensive moves on the sidelines of the UN anniversary celebrations. It has been announced in Washington that Secretary Christopher will hold intensive contacts with the concerned parties.

The paper says: The UN anniversary celebrations must create an international atmosphere, which, we hope, will put pressure on Rabin and his government. This is because peace is an important issue for the region and the world.

The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the same topic. Under the headline "Israel Is Behind the Stalled Peace," the paper says: Israel deliberately foils any effort on the Syrian track. It also deliberately escalates the situation in southern Lebanon in order to place more obstacles before the U.S. Administration's endeavors.

The paper points out that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher intended to visit the region late this month but the continued Israeli intransigence prevented this visit. The paper believes that achieving progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, which will be followed by progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track, depends on a radical change in the Israeli position leading to full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, establishing equitable [mutakafi'ah] and even [muta'adilah] security arrangements, and removing such impossible terms as the ground early warning stations.

[SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, at 0815 GMT on 22 October adds the following: "The newspaper TISHRIN criticizes the statements made by Israeli prime minister and foreign minister on the eve of Christopher-Rabin talks. It notes that these statements do not call for optimism, and reflect, indeed, the policy of deception, procrastination, and placing of obstacles in the way of the peace process. It adds: Rabin proposed the idea of high-level and direct Syrian-Israeli talks, while Peres called on Syria to change its negotiating approach. However, whoever calls for high-level talks should at least announce a commitment to the foundations of the peace process and readiness to return all the Golan, instead of making misleading threats, and work for a genuine peace, instead of partial, lame settlements].

TISHRIN asserts that Syria will not sell out one iota of its national soil or relinquish any of its rights. This has also been asserted by Lebanon. The paper emphasizes that Israel should change its intransigent and rejectionist positions and take practical measures to increase confidence in the peace process. This is because Israel is occupying Syrian and Lebanese territories, and is daily shelling southern Lebanon in a blind and crazy manner. It is high time for the international community to end Israel's noncompliance with its resolutions and stop Israel's violation of its charters and principles.

Under the headline "A New Game," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: When Israel, through its senior officials, acknowledges that Syria wants peace, all that these officials have to do is make a decision about peace and announce their commitment to the principle of full withdrawal in return for full peace.

AL-THAWRAH believes that peace can only be established if both sides have the desire to achieve it. The paper believes that if Israel once again makes insidious proposals regarding the mechanism and methods of negotiations, this is merely another way to evade the requirements of peace and waste time in accordance with the basic Israeli scheme. This scheme seeks negotiations only for the sake of negotiations and to achieve certain objectives.

The paper adds: As President Hafiz al-Asad said in his statements to the Cairo-based newspaper AL-AHRAM, the Israeli objectives include making the world and Arab public opinions believe that the peace process and everything connected with it are proceeding satisfactorily. This will help Israel finalize other steps. In other words, normalization will be accelerated, leading to a new Middle East in which Israel will impose itself as a center dominating the region. The paper points out that the coming Amman economic summit is a way to achieve Israeli domination.

[SYRIAN ARAB NEW AGENCY, SANA, at 0815 GMT on 22 October in its review of AL-THAWRAH editorial adds the following: "Syria does not accept any part of its land to remain occupied. It does not accept any substitute for occupation or its manifestations, regardless of the pretexts Israel resorts to and adheres to obdurately, even though it is aware that the peace process is heading for collapse due to its positions. Syria also does not accept leasing or bargaining on its land, no matter how clever Israel may be in misleading others and concealing its rejection of a just and comprehensive peace, which is based on full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon back to 4 June 1967 lines"].

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Mistaken is the one who thinks that the principled Syrian decision can be influenced by any consideration or pressure or that Syria will accept any distorted solution which conflicts with the national and pan-Arab interests. Syria does not do such things, nor does it follow the policy of sellout. Moreover, Syria does not reward the aggressor.

Khaddam, al-Shar Participate in NAM Conference

Meet Various Counterparts

JN2010205195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cartagena, Colombia—'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president and head of the Syrian delegation to the Nonaligned summit, today received Indonesian President Suharto. They discussed Indonesia's role during its term of chairmanship of Nonaligned Movement [NAM] over the past three years. They also discussed bilateral relations, and issues on the summit agenda.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also met with the DPRK vice president and discussed issues on the Nonaligned summit agenda and bilateral relations.

In Cartagena also, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and discussed international conditions and peace process developments. Views were also exchanged on issues on the Nonaligned Movement summit agenda.

Yesterday, the foreign minister also met with Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic and discussed the Balkan situation, bilateral relations, and ways of developing them in various domains. The foreign minister also met with the Swedish minister of international cooperation and discussed the peace process developments and bilateral relations.

Khaddam Meets Arab Expatriates

JN2310070395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with Arab expatriates in the city of (Branchia) in Colombia yesterday. [passage omitted]

Addressing the expatriates, Khaddam said: We are suffering from a big problem, which is the Israeli aggression against our country. As a result of this aggression, the Palestinian people are still bitterly suffering because they are displaced and their land is occupied. Lebanon is also suffering from Israeli occupation and is coming under daily aggression. Israel also occupies a part of the Syrian Arab territory.

Khaddam added: We want peace and we are making efforts to achieve it. However, this peace must lead to the liberation of all the occupied territories and restore national rights to the Palestinian people. This peace must also preserve our dignity. However, if peace is coupled with the continuation of occupation and robbing us of our willpower, then it is surrender. We are working to liberate our territory and build our country. We are confident that we will achieve our objectives, God willing.

Extension of Lebanese President's Term Viewed

JN2110082195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Lebanon and Syria, a March By One People" TISHRIN says in its editorial: The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies has approved with overwhelming majority the constitutional amendment to extend President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term of office for three more years. This move, the paper says, reflects the climate of stability in Lebanon and the people's desire to continue construction and consolidate national unity under a pan- Arab president who had a prominent role in achieving domestic reconciliation and national reunion and removing the residues of sedition and sectarian grudges, returning Lebanon to the Arab ranks, and enhancing Lebanon's distinguished brotherly relations with Syria.

TISHRIN indicates that the decision of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and Government to extend President al-Hirawi's term reflects the people's unity and support for stability, plans to build the institutions, and the policy of supporting the national resistance and steadfastness in the south in the face of the Israeli attacks.

TISHRIN says that Syria has welcomed the extension because it wishes Lebanon more successes and because it places Lebanon's interest above any other interest. The paper adds: The distinguished Syrian-Lebanese relationship has become a firm conviction and the object of everyone's care. As President al- Hirawi said in his address to the Lebanese people yesterday, this relationship is a strategic relationship in the interest of both Lebanon and Syria.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Ties between Syria and Lebanon are innumerable. They are ties within the same people and same family. Syria has always responded to the Lebanese brothers' call and made every possible sacrifice, for it believes that what affects Lebanon affects it and vice versa. Under Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi, the Syrian-Lebanese relations have developed into historic, vital relations and scored important results in the interest of the people of the two countries. These relations are expected to achieve further development and to turn into a vital model of brotherly Arab relations.

Under the headline "The Extension Is a Vote for the Homeland and the Future," AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial that the extension is a real challenge, and that Lebanon accepted the challenge with complete awareness and responsibility.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the extension is a comprehensive national vote for national reconciliation as the road to and foundation of domestic reconstruction. It is a unanimous decision to build a firm national unity that is above political sectarian trends and that is capable of facing up to all the challenges of the next phase.

AL-THAWRAH says that Lebanon's decision to extend President al-Hirawi's term of office for three more years amid extremely delicate Arab and regional circumstances through an overwhelming majority by the Chamber of Deputies on 19 October is an example of national accord and firm national unity which are crucial for Lebanon's next national battles.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Lebanon must resume its role. All the Arabs need Lebanon to be free of sectarian, religious, and parochial grudges and other diseases which had previously prevented Lebanon from playing its known regional and Arab role.

Radio: Damascus Not To Concede 'One Grain' of Golan

JN2010160895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the nonaligned summit in Colombia, the vice president reiterated Syria's adherence to a just and comprehensive peace. He also stressed the indivisibility of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and the impossibility of achieving any progress without Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, and the return of its occupying forces to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The vice president noted that at a time when the world is witnessing immense changes, and the peoples of the region have expressed their desire to have peace and resolve differences, Israel has not changed at all. Israeli rulers continue to nurse expansionist ambitions, pursue schemes of occupation and hegemony, and defy UN resolutions and the principles of international law. Israel has not implemented a single UN resolution, and has never respected international charters. So far it has been acting as though it were above the law.

Although four years have passed since the convocation of the Madrid conference, the peace process is still marking time without making any progress. Israel continues to pursue intransigent and deceptive policies, and continues to blackmail the countries of the region and the international community. If there were figures on the number of bombs and grenades Israel has poured on the small Arab country of Lebanon, the world would be stunned. Not a single day passes by without Israel committing an aggression, or shelling by land, air, or sea the towns and villages of southern Lebanon, killing innocent civilians and destroying homes, schools, hospitals, mosques, and burning crops.

When the Lebanese resistance retaliates, inflicting massive losses on the aggressors, as it did last week, the Israeli rulers scream, level threats, mobilize forces, send reinforcements, blame Lebanon and Syria, and behave as usual, thinking they are above all laws and charters. They act as though they have the right to occupy other people's territories, displace their residents, destroy the town and cities, and kill innocent people. If the landowners defended their land and stood up to face the malicious occupiers, then these same occupiers would level accusations of terrorism and sabotage, though it is Israel which has been employing terrorism in its ugliest forms. Israel invented the art of terrorism, and has practiced it ever since its establishment in the region.

Sisterly Lebanon has suffered all kinds of woes because of Israel. The Lebanese people have become increasingly convinced that resistance is the only means to curb Israeli aggression and terminate the occupation. What most infuriates the rulers of Tel Aviv is that Syria and Lebanon have adopted a united position, and that Lebanon has returned to the Arab fold, triumphed over the Zionist scheme of partition, and adhered, alongside Syria, to international legitimacy resolutions as the only means of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Israel's threats will not affect the unity of the Syrian and Lebanese position in the least. Neither will they harm the resolve of the national resistance, because it is legitimate self-defense. Israel will have no other choice but to stick to the real path of peace, which is in line with UN resolutions; namely, full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Israel is mistaken if it has illusions about blackmailing Damascus and Beirut. Not one grain of soil will be conceded. Without Damascus and Beirut, there will be no peace in the region. The sellout agreements Israel dictated to some Arab parties have nothing to do with peace; neither can they ever lead to peace.

There is no peace other than that of right and justice, the terms of which were announced by Damascus long ago. It is based on international legitimacy and consensus.

Government's Peace Position Reiterated

JN2110153695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Because peace is essentially a general state of security and stability and serves the interests of the peoples of the region and the world, eagerness to realize just and comprehensive peace should be translated into practical action in the international arena and within its legitimate establishments to rescue the peace process from the serious stalemate caused by Israel.

Only Security Council resolutions are the decisive factors that determine the one who wants peace and the one who claims to want peace. They are also the basis of any real progress that Syria wants to achieve the aspired objective. They are also the only way to rescue the peace process from stalemate and dormancy. When the whole world, and the United States in particular, realizes this fact and it stops listening to the deceptive israeli propaganda, it will be aware of its responsibility and will move effectively to realize just and comprehensive peace and will not allow Israel to waste this historic opportunity.

Israel wasted much time in toying with words and positions and did not offer anything that can be a base for a just and comprehensive peace. It evaded what can be the basis of real progress and refused to commit itself to comprehensive withdrawal in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace. Since the beginning of the Madrid conference, Israel succeeded in keeping the United Nations away from the peace process and marginalizing the European role. It went further when it circumvented the U.S. efforts and succeeded in obstructing them in more than one stage of the peace process. It even kept the United States from Oslo's secret talks that resulted in an agreement that does not serve the peace process.

In spite of all this, Israel accuses the others of obstructing peace, forgetting or pretending to forget that the whole world, headed by the U.S. sponsor, is aware of the real Syrian positions. Syria only demands its rights and the restoration of the its land, and Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon so that peace will be just and comprehensive and can last in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions of international legitimacy emphasize all mutual commitments that result from peace on the basis of equitability [takfu'], equality [tasawi], reciprocity [tabadul], and parallelism [tawazi] especially in security arrangements that the Arabs need more than Israel because it is the aggressor and the party with the most modern conventional and unconventional weapons.

While the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, it is asked now more than any other time to have recourse to international legitimacy's resolutions and the UN laws, and to end the Israeli state of rebellion which continues to attempt to entrench Israel's hegemony and to implement its designs without heeding the principles of peace and its objective requirements, headed by full withdrawal.

Israel's avoidance of complying with peace requirements and bowing to the will of international legitimacy confirms its desire to destroy the chances for peace and working for exploding the situation in the region through southern Lebanon in a manner that will lead to more violence because occupation and violence beget resistance and violent reaction. This is a fact that the entire world has known throughout history. This fact cannot be changed by attempting to describe the resistance falsely and haphazardly as terrorist action.

The world, headed by the United States, is asked to work for restoring respect to the peace principles and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and to force Israel to heed its requirements. It has become a fatal mistake to accept the Israeli propaganda which pretends to shed tears for peace. He who wants peace, knows its path, which is the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Without following this path, there will be no peace, security, and stability.

Israeli Promises of Welfare, Peace Mocked

JN2210123395 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 22 Oct (SANA) — In its economic commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH ridicules Israel's allegations — which come in the context of its promotion of the Amman economic summit — that it has no ambitions to dominate Arab resources and that it does not seek to manipulate Arab economies, through Middle Easternism, because these are economies of poor countries that encumber the Israeli economy.

The paper asks: How does Israel claim that it seeks peace and prosperity for the peoples of the region at a time when it holds fast to the occupation of land, grabs Arab waters, arrests women and children, and stops at nothing for the sake of its expansion and hegemony.

AL-THAWRAH explains: The Israeli economy, which is sustained by foreign aid, seeks to make the assistance come from the Arab states, because foreign aid might be ruptured at a certain point. The alternative to foreign aid will, of course, be at the expense of the economies of the region's countries. Had this not been true, then the Zionist plan would not have been based on the principle of expansion, annexation, and usurpation of Arab resources and waters.

Concluding its article, the newspaper asks: Are Arab states required now to hurry to catch up with the Middle Eastern order? Israel is not only promising Arab states that they will have welfare and peace, but is also brandishing a club to persuade the hesitant parties to hurry up.

Commentary Reiterates Adherence to Peace Constants

JN2210160995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Preparations are under way for a new meeting between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Warren Christopher, secretary of state of the United states — the sponsor of peace. This meeting is aimed at finding a possible means to extricate the peace process from its ordeal. Meanwhile, the Israelis avoid showing any sign of a change in the Israeli intransigent stand on the process of achieving a just and comprehensive peace — a sign that would open the door for the possibility of resuming peace talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

It seems quite clear that the Israelis are exploiting the circumstances in an ugly way whether in terms of what was achieved on other tracks or in terms of exercising traditional pressure on the U.S. Administration, which is preparing itself for the new presidential elections. In both cases, Israel is wagering on the game of time, thinking that through this game, it will achieve more than it aspires to achieve — that is, to secure stability for its peace with 'Arafat and to continue its peace with Jordan. Hence, peace with Syria, which carries international and logical standards and conditions and is in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy, should embarrass those who did not adhere to the land, international legitimacy, or the land-for-peace principle.

Observers of israeli reactions to this prerequisite and to the old and new circumstances which surround it note that there is some kind of understanding that smacks of premeditated intentions to dampen the efforts to revive the peace process. This is occurring so that Israel can exploit what it has achieved on other tracks to fully serve its interest, and so that it can manipulate its stands toward its other peace agreements to pressure Syria to change its stand and its insistence on achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Proceeding from Syria's feeling of responsibility toward the problems of the region, in general, and problems of the peace process, in particular, we say: The bickering, wagering, and jugglery exercised by others are of no concern to Syria. No circumstance, reason, or change can deviate Syria from its constants or from its objectives within a hair's breadth. Syria is able to adhere to these constants and stands regardless of how long it takes and the price it costs.

We are about to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the blessed Corrective Movement — the movement of constants, principles, and values — which was led and whose bases were consecrated by the leader of historical stands, the achiever of victories for Syria and its Arab nation, and the champion of constants recognized by those who far and near.

U.S. State Department Cited 'Essential' Syrian Role

JN2310075495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH says there is a general consensus that peace in the region will not be just and comprehensive without Syria and Lebanon. The paper notes that the U.S. State Department said yesterday that achieving progress on the Syrian track is essential to establish peace in the Middle East.

The paper adds that since the start of the peace process, Syria has not changed its position on the peace process. It has repeatedly said that the success of the peace process depends on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper adds: Syria made it clear that any talk that contradicts the principles on which the peace process was launched definitely means procrastination and evasion of the requirements for peace. It is impossible to establish any kind of peace while our territory is under occupation. The world is unanimous that it is impossible to achieve a real peace while Israel has not declared its commitment to implement international resolutions. These resolutions stress full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The conditions and requirements for achieving a just and comprehensive peace are very clear and no longer need any explanation or elaboration. Anyone who wants real peace must adhere to the principles and foundations on which the peace process was launched. The first principle is Israel's full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Any talk or position that contradicts this is against the peace process.

UN 50th Anniversary Celebrations Observed

JN2310091595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 23 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the UN 50th anniversary celebrations. The paper says Syria is one of the founding members and the countries that supported this international organization and its message to spread peace and amity, establish right and justice, and deter aggression.

The paper says the United Nations has contributed to easing international tension and settling disputes. It served as a real forum for all nations to express their problems.

TISHRIN notes that the Arab-Israeli conflict occupied an important part of the UN activities and debates. Many resolutions were adopted on the rights of the Palestinian people, condemning Israel's crimes and aggressions against Arab countries.

The paper says the UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, call for Israel's full withdrawal from all the 1967-occupied Arab territories and the return of the occupying forces to their previous lines. In addition, Resolution 425 calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The international organization also denounced Israel's practices and attempts to change the demographic features of the occupied territories. Thus, the international organization considered settlement activity an aggression against international legitimacy and contradictory to peace. It also said that the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan is null and void and has no legal effect.

TISHRIN goes on: The problem, however, is that the international organization has failed to implement its resolutions. Syria and the Arabs only asked the international community to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations. Israel has lent a deaf ear to these calls and deliberately created obstacles to the peace process. It also has not adhered to the resolutions of international legitimacy. The United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, has so far not managed to implement its pledges and persuade Israel to submit to the principles of right and justice and the Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria adheres to its territory and rights. Along with other peace-loving nations, Syria looks forward to a day when the United Nations becomes an effective tool against aggression and when the policy of double standards is dropped. Until that day, Syria shall remain faithful to the principles of the international organization and committed to its Charter. It shall also extend every possible assistance to it to enable it to maintain its international role.

Information Minister Briefs Japanese Press on Peace

JN2310081695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman met yesterday with a Japanese press team representing Japanese media, currently on a visit to Syria. The meeting was attended by the Japanese ambassador in Damascus.

At the outset, the information minister spoke about the growth of friendly relations and cooperation between Syria and Japan. He noted that last month's meeting in Damascus between Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and President Hafiz al-Asad was a landmark in Syrian-Japanese ties.

The information minister briefed the guest delegation on developments in the peace process in the region and the stalemate caused by Israel's rejection of the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The information minister then answered questions by the Japanese press team.

Algerian Parliamentary Delegation Concludes Visit

JN2110110895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Algerian parliamentary delegation, led by Mohamed Lakhdar Lakhdari, deputy head of Algeria's National Transitional Council, left Damascus this morning following a six-day visit to Syria.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Muhammad 'Adil Jamus, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly, and the staff of the Algerian Embassy in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Comparison of al-Asad Interview

NC1310200495

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 11 October publishes on pages 3 and 5 the "text" of an interview with President Hafiz al-Asad conducted by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' in Damascus. The date of the interview is not given. The AL-AHRAM report has been compared with the Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network Arabic version published in the 12 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 50-61, revealing the following variations:

Page 54, column one, paragraph four, from sentence eight to end of paragraph is omitted from the AL-AHRAM version.

Page 55, column one, paragraph five, only sentence reads: [Nafi'] In your opinion, will the period of estrangement take some time? (rewording)

Page 55, column two, paragraph eight, from sentence three to the end of the paragraph is omitted from the AL-AHRAM version.

Page 56, column one, last paragraph, sentence five reads: ...repeat these meanings, which in their entirety give an indication of what is to come. (supplying additional material.)

Page 56, column one, last paragraph, from sentence six to the end of the paragraph is omitted from the AL-AHRAM version.

Page 57, column two, paragraph two, sentence one reads: ...room, God willing. [new paragraph] [Nafi'] On the Lebanese question... The AL-AHRAM version here inserts all text from page 61, column one, paragraph four, sentence one to the end of the item.

Page 58, column one, paragraph three, from sentence 18 to page 59, column one, paragraph four is omitted from the AL-AHRAM version.

Page 59, column two, paragraph two, last two sentences are omitted from the AL-AHRAM version.

Page 60, column one, paragraph three, from sentence 11 to the end of the paragraph is omitted from the AL-AHRAM version.

Page 61, column one, last paragraph to end of item moved as mentioned above.

Afghanistan

Government Forces, Taleban Clash in Kabul

Fighters Bomb Taleban Positions

LD2010174695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The enemy concentration points and heavy weapons emplacement in the south of Kabul and in Lowgar Province were heavily bombed today by Islamic Army fighters.

BAKHTAR reported that the fighter planes of the Islamic Army fighters in several sorties this afternoon targeted the heavy weapons emplacements, concentration points, and decision-making headquarters of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban in the Lowgar and Chahar Asiab regions.

According to a security source, heavy losses were inflicted on Benazir Bhutto's group as a result of the bombings. No reports have yet been received on the exact losses.

Since the invasion by Bhutto's Taleban has been repulsed in Kabul, wherein they have sustained heavy losses, this group has lost combat morale and are now fleeing.

'Over 400' Taleban Said Dead

LD2010194595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A famous commander of the Taleban group, Lala Tur, was killed in the recent fighting around Kabul.

According to reports received by BAKHTAR the Benazir Taleban, who recently embarked on an invasion of Kabul from the south and west, have sustained heavy losses of life. Lala Tur, one of the famous Taleban commanders, was among those killed and his body was recently transferred to Kandahar by helicopter.

It has been stated that the mercenary Taleban group sustained over 400 dead with a large number of Taleban fighters injured in their recent unsuccessful attack. This has lowered their morale.

Report on Diplomats Leaving Kabul Denied

LD2110093595 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 21, IRNA — An Afghanistan embassy official in Islamabad Saturday [21 October] denied the report on foreign diplomats leaving Kabul following the reported heavy fighting between Taleban and Rabbani forces around the city.

Daily THE NATION on Saturday reported that two Sudanese diplomats along with their families Friday left Kabul and through Torkham border near Peshawar arrived in Pakistan to proceed to Islamabad. It said a number of other foreign diplomats were also preparing to leave Kabul.

A number of foreign embassies in Kabul including Iran, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and some offices of the United Nations are open and active.

The Pakistan embassy in Kabul was ransacked on September 6, by Afghan protesters. After the incident Pakistan closed its embassy and evacuated its staff.

Envoy in Tehran Comments on Fighting

LD2110151495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan charge d'affaires in Tehran and the representative of the Akbari faction of Wahdat-e Eslami said in separate interviews said that fighting is going on, as before, between the rival groups in various regions of the country.

In their interviews with the correspondent of the Islamic Republic of Iran's radio-television external services, Mr. Khorasani [the Afghan charge d'affaires] and Mr. Shafaq [the representative of Wahdat-e Eslami] said that fighting is now concentrated in Bamian city, Zaranj, Farah, and around Kabul Province. Both of them said that the Afghan Government's aircraft heavily bombed Taleban positions in Logar and Chahar Asiab provinces yesterday morning. But they did not say anything about the loss of life. Some reports, however, say that at least 16 Talebans were killed and a number were wounded.

Referring to efforts by the opposition to [Afghan President] Rabbani to reach an agreement in Jalalabad on forming a united front against the Government of Afghanistan, Shafaq and Khorasani said that Jalalabad's council, which is a neutral body regarding the developments in Afghanistan, warned against holding any session in Jalalabad.

With regard to Islamabad's intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs, the Afghan charge d'affaires and the representative of the Akbari faction of Wahdat-e Eslami said that Pakistan openly gives military and material assistance to the Taleban group. One clear example of this assistance is the seizure of Herat city by the Taleban.

During their interviews the two Afghan officials referred to the talks between the Khalili faction of Wahdat-e Eslami and the Taleban group, and said that so far these talks have failed.

Taleban Rocket Hits Hospital, Kills 14

LD2110170295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the impact of four Katyusha rockets fired at a hospital and a commercial area in the center of the city of Kabul, over 60 people have been killed or injured. According to the Central News Unit, the rockets, which were fired by the Taleban group from the Chahar Asiab region, inflicted serious damage on a hospital in Kabul and the city's commercial center. Fourteen people were killed and 47 were injured as a result of the attack. The attack took place a few hours after the arrival of Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN envoy for Afghan affairs, in Kabul.

Rabbani Says Kabul Ready for Cooperation

LD2110182095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State Afghanistan [ISA], this morning met Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, the special envoy of the UN secretary general for Afghan affairs. The presidential press office reported to BAKHTAR that at the beginning of the meeting Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri presented a report to the esteemed president in connection with the UN efforts for the political and peaceful solution of the Afghan problem, expressed the hope that all sides involved in the problem should appreciate the political solution of the Afghan problem, and expressed their readiness for its realization.

Backing the political solution of the Afghan problem, the esteemed president said: The ISA has always been and is of the opinion that talks and understanding is the effective way to put an end to fighting and to ensure peace in Afghanistan. The ISA has already announced in a statement its readiness in this respect. Our country's esteemed president added: We support UN efforts for the political solution of the issues and we hope that the United Nations will expand its efforts in this connection. [Words indistinct] The ISA also hopes that the United Nations will make efforts to prevent foreign interference in the Afghan internal affairs, which has acquired wider dimensions now.

According to another report, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri arrived in Kabul this morning. At Kabul international airport he was received by a representative of the protocol department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and some other officials of the ministry.

Government Forces 'Enjoy High Combat Morale'

LD2110192395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic army forces are defending Kabul as far as 45 kilometers southeast of the city, and enjoy high combat morale. After visiting the first front lines in southeast Kabul, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the Islamic army forces are stationed on the mountains overlooking Azrow, Dara-e Malang [placename as heard], Qala-e Qahar [placename as heard] in Logar Province, and the Tezen-e Khas area, which is as far as 40 kilometers from the Botkhak [placename as heard] area. The mojahedin and the Islamic army forces, enjoying high combat morale, are strengthening their positions there.

Commander Mohammad Zaman, a commander at the first front line, said: The Islamic army forces have already set up bases in Chakari, Khak-e Jabbar, and Band-e Ghazi [placename as heard] to ensure the safety of the Kabul residents and the first front lines are as far as 15 kilometers from Khak-e Jabbar in the Azrow direction. Denying a Taleban spokesman's remarks during an interview with a Pakistani journalist, he said: Our presence in Khak-e Jahar, around Azrow, Dara-e Malang, Qala-e Qahar, and Chakari, which are 40 kilometers from Botkhak, exposes this untrue claim.

General Abdol Momen, commander of the eastern zone, in connection with the readiness of the Islamic army forces said: Our forces in this area are ready to resolutely defend Kabul city and its residents and to sacrifice their lives for this purpose.

Taleban Spokesman Denies Rocket Attack

LD2110220295 Tehran IRNA in English 2153 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 21, IRNA — Eleven persons were killed and thirty others injured in a rocket attack fired by the Taleban militia on Kabul, Afghan sources said here Saturday [21 October].

The rockets were fired from the southern side of the belegaured city where the Taleban are locked in fiece fighting with forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

However, a spokesman of the Taleban in Peshawar in an interview with IRNA denied that his militia was responsible for the rocket attack.

He said government's accusations were aimed to defame Taleban movement.

War-torn Kabul has come under attack of rockets at a time when UN Special Envoy Mahmoud Mestiri is visiting there to meet President Rabbani.

Mestiri has been trying desparately to make warring Afghan factions agree on a temporary ceasefire to pave the way for the solution of the lingering Afghan dispute.

He has visited different parts of Afghanistan including Kabul since last month but has failed so far to secure any promise for truce from the belliegerant sides.

According to Afghan sources, the controversial Taleban forces have taken positions south if Kabul, while the government is determined to thwart their bid to take the city.

UN Envoy Mestiri Extends Visit in Kabul

LD2210115195 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 22, IRNA — U.N. special envoy Mahmud Mestiri, in a bid to broker peace in war-torn Afghanistan, has met President Borhanoddin Rabbani who reportedly has shown his readiness to stand down.

Mestiri flew into beleaguered Afghan capital yesterday and was scheduled to return to Islamabad same evening but later extended his stay in Kabul for another day.

He is now expected to fly back this evening, the U.N. sources in Islamabad told IRNA.

The Daily Frontier Post, published from Peshawar, quoted U.N. peace negotiator as claiming to have secured gurantees both from the govenment and Taleban militia for a temprary cease-fire to pave the way for negotiated settlement of the simmering crisis.

Mestiri reportedly said that there was no logic for fighting when there was willingness for the peaceful solution of the conflict.

Taleban yesterday fired three rockets on Kabul from southern sides killing at least eleven and wounding thirteen persons, just hours after Mestiri arrived in Kabul to meet Rabbani.

Mestiri has been striving hard since last month to broker temporary truce among belligerant Afghan factions but has so fair failed in his effort.

U.N. peace envoy is visiting Kabul at a time when Taleban militia are bracing for launching massive attack on Kabul.

Meanwhile, former Afghan King Zahir Shah is expected to visit Pakistan within the next two weeks.

Afghan sources said that the ex-monarch would be visiting Pakistan as a follow up to the visit of his special envoy and son- in-law General Sardar Abdor Wali in June last.

Tehran Envoy: Rabbani Ready To 'Relinquish Power'

LD2210144995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Khorasani, the charge d'affaires of the Afghan embassy in Tehran, said this morning that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani is ready to relinquish power. In an interview with the news unit of the Islamic Republic of Iran's radio and television's external services, Khorasani said: Mr. Rabbani announced conditional readiness for the transfer of power and a cease-fire in Afghanistan in his meeting yesterday with Mahmud Mestiri, the UN's special envoy to Afghanistan. In this telephone interview he expressed ignorance about the conditions put forward by Rabbani for the transfer of power in Afghanistan.

Taleban Plane Reportedly Bombs Kabul

LD2210173195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] One of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban planes bombed Kabul city today. BAKHTAR reported to us that the plane appeared over Kabul this morning and dropped four bombs on a residential area. As a result three people including a child and a woman were injured and three houses were destroyed. It is said that this was the first time that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban has used their warplanes.

Yesterday, too, members of this group fired rockets into the city from the south of Kabul, which resulted in the martyrdom of seven residents.

A resident of Kabul, Gholam Faruq, whose house was destroyed by a bomb, told a BAKHTAR correspondent that no loss of life was inflicted on his family as a result of the bombing. He said, however: We condemn this crime perpetrated by Bhutto's Taleban against civilians, and ask the Islamic army to subject the mercenary Taleban's positions to crushing blows and to rid the people of their scourge.

According to another report, the Taleban also fired three rockets into Kabul city today, martyring two residents and injuring six others.

Taleban Offensive Said Repulsed

LD2210173995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An offensive launched by the so-called Taleban was neutralized south and southeast of Kabul this morning. Armed forces sources reported to BAKHTAR that the hireling Taleban launched an unsuccessful offensive south and southeast of the city, which was defeated by the Islamic army's resistance. During this offensive a number of the Taleban were killed or injured.

The air force's warplanes bombarded Taleban fortifications in Charasiab this afternoon. One bomb hit a Taleban concentration base in Ghond-e Talimi, causing heavy loss of life to the hirelings. The enemy's positions were also subjected to heavy weapon fire south of Kabul. As a result a number of their heavy weapons were destroyed.

50 Taleban Reported Killed in Counteroffensive

LD2210175495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic army forces killed 50 Taleban in a counteroffensive in the direction of Maydanshar today. A responsible source of the Ministry of Defense reported to BAKHTAR that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban mounted an attack against the Islamic army forces' positions this afternoon. The attack was neutralized at the very outset. Fifty of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban were killed, and a quantity of enemy weapons was destroyed. The surviving enemy fled the battlefield. No precise information has been received about the number of enemy injured in the operation. [passage omitted]

Second Round of Rabbani-Mestiri Talks Held

LD2210190395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], met Mr. Mahmud Mestiri, UN special envoy to Afghanistan, today. The presidential press office reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting talks were held about the current situation of the country and on achieving a peaceful solution to the problems. Mr. Mahmud Mestiri informed the esteemed president about the UN peace efforts and expressed the hope that the sides involved work to implement the peace process and give up fighting.

Supporting the UN peace efforts, Prof. Rabbani said: The ISA considers sitting down at the negotiating table an useful act to resolve problems, and is of the opinion that no group can achieve its goals through fighting. Therefore, the ISA will support any effort that leads to the solution of the problems.

More on Mestiri-Rabbani Talks

LD2210174395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Kabul brings you the latest reports on the talks held between the UN special envoy on Afghanistan's affairs and Afghanistan's President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and on the ongoing clashes in that country.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Mahmud Mestiri, UN special envoy to Afghanistan, who arrived in Kabul yesterday, held his second round of talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani this afternoon.

After his talks last night with Rabbani, Mestiri announced that the government in Kabul had agreed to a temporary cease-fire and to formulate a program for the transfer of power. In an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Kabul today, a source affiliated to the government, said: In his recent trips, Mr. Mestiri's objective has been to obtain the approval of Kabul's government to a combination of individuals who will take measures to bring about a power transfer in Afghanistan after the establishment of a temporary cease-fire. According to Mr. Mestiri, the composition of this group has not yet been decided on. According to these reports, the outcome of Mestiri's latest talks, up to this afternoon, are that, after studying the current list, Rabbani will prepare a list containing the name of some individuals and submit it to Mestiri by the end of this week.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Central News Unit's correspondent in Kabul this afternoon, an official of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], Akbari branch, said in connection with the situation in Afghanistan's central region and in Bamian: The forces opposed to the government who had penetrated the lines of the pro-government forces in Bamian and had advanced up to the Shaykh Ali district in Parwan Province, have been halted as a result of the action taken against them last night and today and have lost some of their positions.

Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kabul. [end recording]

High State Council Holds Session

LD2210192295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A High State Council session was held in the presidential palace today under the chairmanship of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The

High State Council's secretariat reported to BAKHTAR that the meeting first discussed the country's military and political situation. The high combat morale of the Afghan armed forces was considered positive for the security of the Kabul residents and for the consolidation of the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. The High State Council expressed pleasure at the ability of the armed forces to neutralize enemy conspiracies and thus allow our compatriots to conduct their life in tranquillity.

Today's session accepted the Afghan government's stance on talks and understanding. The High State Council also discussed other issues on the agenda and made appropriate decisions.

Kabul Bombed for Second Consecutive Day

BK2310082195 Hong Kong AFP in English
0751 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul Oct 23 (AFP)—The Afghan capital was bombed from the air for the second consecutive day on Monday [23 October] while government and Taleban forces kept up their land battle.

A lone plane dropped bombs on government positions in the Qargah area of Kabul shortly after dawn but did not cause any casualties, a military officer told AFP.

The capital was jolted awake by the sounds of bomb blasts and heavy anti-aircraft fire as government gunners tried to chase the unidentified aircraft away.

Monday's attack came one day after the first aerial bombing of the capital by Taleban militiamen besieging the city for the past two weeks. At least three people were wounded when four bombs fell on a residential district.

The Taleban, Islamic warriors who have vowed to topple the nearly three-year-old government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, claimed responsibility for the bombing raid in a statement issued in Pakistan.

Taleban fighters have advanced to within five or six kilometers (three to four miles) of the south of Kabul in their latest bid to capture the city of nearly one million people.

Commander Jalali, an officer in the government's 70th Division, said government troops had repulsed three offensives by Taleban fighters during the past three days.

"We are not witnessing any military movements now," he said. "The Taleban are remaining in their defensive lines and are not making any movements."

Government troops fired the occasional rocket toward [word indistinct] positions as the commander spoke to reporters.

Jalali also said the Taleban had suffered heavy casualties on Saturday when government planes bombed a supply convoy heading for Chahar Asiab, a Taleban stronghold south of Kabul.

He said several dozen trucks had been carrying weapons and reinforcements to the Taleban when they were attacked.

The report could not be independently confirmed.

The Taleban, which started in the Islamic colleges of southern Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan, mostly comprises members of the country's ethnic Pashtun community.

They have vowed to topple the Tajik-dominated Rabbani government and establish Islamic law, or Sharia, throughout the country.

A previous attempt by the Taleban, or "Students of Religion," to capture Kabul was repulsed by government troops in March.

IRNA on Rabbani Power Transfer Offer

LD2310113195 Tehran IRNA in English
1024 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 23, IRNA — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has told U.N. peace mediator mahmud Mestiri that he was ready to step down in favour of a "reasonable interim mechanism", which also included his Jam'iyat-e Eslami Party, [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] U.N. official said here monday.

Mestiri met twice with Rabbani during his two-day stay in beleagured Kabul and flew back to Islamabad yesterday evening.

"Rabbani is willing to transfer power to a reasonable mechanism", Dr. Sadiq Abu-Nafisa, spokesman of Mestiri's peace mission told IRNA.

The U.N. special envoy is presently trying to broker a ceasefire between the warring Afghan factions to enable the estranged leaders to hammer out a negotiated settlement of the simmering dispute.

Nafisa said all Afghan factions were "in principle" agreed to Mestiri's proposal of holding negotiations for peace preceded by temporary truce. "But the modalities are yet to be sorted out," he said adding, "it still needs works".

A representative of anti-Rabbani militia of Taleban has had a meeting with U.N. envoy a few days back and had agreed to his proposal. "He (Taleban representative) promised to report back on the response of militia's shura (council)", on U.N. proposal, he added.

Meanwhile fighting is continuing in different parts of the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Wehdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] led by Karim Khalili has claimed to have captured two disticts in northwestern Parvan Province on Sunday last.

A Wehdat-e Eslami spokesman in Peshawar told IRNA that his party forces seized 'Ghourband' and 'Doab' from Rabbani forces after a fierce fighting.

Parvan is located in the east of Bamyan Province which Wehdat forces had captured last week.

The spokesman said Wehdat-e Eslami forces were now about 30 kilometers from Jabul-us-Siraj, a main military base of Rabbani's strongman Ahmad Shah Masud in north of Kabul.

Iran

Va'ezi Summons Argentine Envoy on 'Terrorist Attempt'

*LD2210092795 Tehran IRNA in English
0837 GMT 22 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — The charge d'affaires of Argentina to Iran, Eduardo de Mayo, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here Sunday [22 October] following the terrorist attempt early Sunday morning (Tehran time) against his Iranian counterpart in Buenos Aires.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi told the Argentine diplomat that Buenos Aires should identify and arrest as soon as possible the parties that were involved in the attempt.

The Iranian charge d'affaires in Argentina, Hassan 'Ali Rajabi Yazdi, was severely injured after being shot while he was on his way home at 18:00 hours local time in Buenos Aires (03:00 hours early Sunday morning in Tehran and 23:30 GMT Saturday).

An official report said that Rajabi Yazdi was immediately taken to the hospital.

Va'ezi called for special medical treatment for Rajabi Yazdi and hoped for his immediate recovery.

He said the attempt was made by elements related to Zionist circles which aimed at destroying Tehran-Buenos Aires relations.

De Mayo expressed his and his country's deep regrets about the incident and assured Iranian officials that Argentina would use all its medical capabilities to treat the Iranian diplomat.

Irano-Argentine relations were scaled down to the level of charge d'affaires beginning last year.

Commentary Views Assassination Attempt

*LD2210180895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1646 GMT 22 Oct 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening. Let me draw your attention to a political commentary:

As you heard in the news, Hasan-'Ali Rajabi Yazdi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge d'affaires in Argentina, was the target of a terrorist attack this morning and was severely injured.

In the wake of this failed assassination attempt, our country's Foreign Ministry summoned the Argentine charge d'affaires in Tehran and, while stressing the need for the quickest possible identification of the perpetrators of this shameful deed, called for special medical attention toward treating the Iranian diplomat.

At any rate, even though the perpetrators of this act of terrorism failed to achieve their unholy aim, nevertheless, by targeting the Iran's charge d'affaires, they revealed their evil nature; a nature that, once again, exposed the presence of Zionist circles behind the curtain of bloody events in Argentina, and demonstrated their weakness and incapacity in harming the relations between Iran and Argentina.

Zionist circles have been trying for some time to wreck the bases for the expansion of ties between Iran and Argentina and, thereby, to embark on new propaganda about our country being in isolation. The main efforts made by Zionist circles in this connection have met with defeat so far, and they have not been able to attain any of their evil aims.

It was inevitable that the latest decisions made by Argentine judicial officials in rejecting the accusations made against Iran would anger those [Zionist] circles; having shown the failure of Zionist circles' accusations of Iranian involvement in the explosions in Buenos Aires.

Needless to say, the fact that these circles have resorted to acts of terrorism and an attempt to assassinate the Iranian charge d'affaires demonstrates their inhuman nature and testifies to the falseness of their claims and hollow assertions about being opposed to terrorism.

In fact, the terrorist attack in Argentina this morning is testimony to the reality that international Zionism and international terrorism are not two separate concepts; but, rather, consist of one single existence acting in coordination and unison. It is to be expected that, under these circumstances, governments and nations must be more vigilant than ever and, while identifying and crushing the perpetrators of these acts, remove any possible bases for their growth.

Radio Comments on Anti-U.S. Rally on Okinawa

LD2210105795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0443 GMT 22 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people of Okinawa in Japan held their largest ever anti-American rally yesterday, calling for the withdrawal of American military from their homeland. Representatives of more than 500 political organizations took part in the rally which was held following a call by political parties, social and political organs, and establishments throughout Japan.

Experts in Japanese affairs believe that the demonstrations — staged in Okinawa and other parts of Japan to protest against the unethical behavior of the American military men — is a way demonstrate the nationalist sentiments of the Japanese people and are a reaction to the humiliating behavior of the Americans against them.

The Americans — who, after the defeat of the Axis governments in the Second World War, wrested Japan and some of the Pacific islands from their European allies, during the struggle to divide the world, as main bases for stemming the eastward influence of communism — in the past four years have been faced with the problem of justifying the continuation of their presence in those areas, particularly Japan.

The Japanese — who no longer consider themselves threatened by their Western neighbors, that is Russia and China — see the presence of the American military in their country as unjustified logically and from the point of view of security. Therefore it can be said the huge Okinawa demonstrations were a reflection of the national will of the Japanese to extend their political and military sovereignty over their territorial domain and security regions of that country. That is a demand that Washington, willy-nilly, will be forced to accept because a country which is America's arch-rival economically will naturally seek to attain a political status commensurate with its economic position.

Paper Discusses 'Failure' of U.S. Embargo

NC2110185195 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Washington Admits Defeat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

"The U.S. economic embargo against Iran is hurting the United States." Peter Tarnoff, director general of the U.S. State Department [title as published], made this statement in the presence of American banking magnates. Also, he elaborated that this embargo will not have any effect on Iran's exports or economic situation, even in the distant future.

Kanov and John Gannon, the CIA's deputy director of intelligence, addressed this session and frankly proclaimed the opposition of the State Department and the espionage organization, the CIA, to the embargo proposed by Clinton. They not only deemed it ineffective regarding Iran, but they stressed that continuing this policy would be detrimental for the United States in the long run.

The fact is that five months have passed since the multilateral economic and business embargo was imposed on Iran by the United States, resulting in the United States voluntarily relinquishing its share of the Iranian market to others. Further, all the powerful rivals of the United States have capitalized on this golden opportunity for a presence in the lucrative Iranian market.

That 800 foreign companies from 53 countries participated in the Tehran International Trade Fair proved that Washington is harming itself in its industrial-commercial embargo of Iran. In fact, some of its allies have displayed considerable fervor in filling the slot vacated by the United States.

It would be appropriate, therefore, if U.S. citizens asked their officials, especially those in the State Department and the CIA, why they did not make a clear assessment of today's international situation before imposing such an ineffective embargo against Iran. Let us not forget that the United States is still living in its visionary world that revolves around the will of superpowers which it has labeled the new world order.

The U.S. officials imagine that they enjoy the position of the world's sole, undisputed superpower, and whatever they order will be obeyed by others to the letter. It is a false, unacceptable concept that the United States does not believe that other countries, even its allies, should have the right to express opinions and make decisions and believes they should follow U.S. foreign policy.

The images of the United States' absolute supremacy over the world, which the U.S. mass media has been assigned to propagate, has been accepted as fact ostensibly by U.S. officials only. They are the only ones who believe that the United States may do what it pleases and should issue instructions to others who should obey them humbly and should accept and implement all the policies dictated by Washington under all circumstances, even if it is to their own detriment.

The latest experiment by the United States and the defeat of the economic embargo against Iran should, on principle, drive home to the U.S. executive, decision-making, and information centers that the world today is very different from the world of hopes and dreams. The countries that have been and are the closest allies and cohorts of U.S. policy have displayed independent action and refrained from obeying the United States. In the fields of political, economic, and industrial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, they have shown their preference to decide on their own objectives and policies within the framework of their national interests and not to fall into a well by clinging to the worn rope of the United States.

It is worth mentioning that today the officials of the Clinton administration have evaded accepting realities, have protested to all the countries, and they seriously expect those countries to join the economic, oil, and industrial embargo against Iran and follow the same cliched policies dictated by the United States. Thus, the United States deserves such disgraceful setbacks and losses. This is because despite its sense of failure and its awareness of the tangible realities, it is still optimistic it can swim against the tide and motivate others to follow its foolish policies.

The United States sought to isolate Iran but is itself totally isolated regarding Iran and is complaining of its own isolation with rage and malice. From the outset, it was quite clear that this policy was doomed for failure and that no country would cooperate. If Washington ever wants to repeat its unsuccessful experiment again with threats and instigations, once again the result will be the same. It will make the others realize that the United States wants others to share in its failures and to take revenge for its consecutive defeats in its encounters with the Islamic Republic of Iran from its trade rivals. This is not something that the vigilant commercial competitors of the United States on the Iranian business scene are ignorant of.

U.S Seen Capitalizing on Elections in Iraq

NC2110102895 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, member of the Supreme National Council and Majles Foreign Policy Committee: "Elections in Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Next Sunday [15 October] the Iraqi Government will hold presidential elections. This is taking place for the first time since the monarchical regime was toppled in Iraq 37 years ago. Common practice has been for presidents to assume power through a coup d'etat and to be removed in the same fashion!

The Iraqi Government has held numerous preliminaries. The Iraqi regime wants a large number of people to vote for Saddam and to show the world it is holding a democratic election. Hence, the Ba'thist strategy is to drag the plague-ridden Iraqi nation to the ballot boxes at any price so that the voters will cast the "correct" vote! More than 10,000 parliamentary deputies and correspondents have been invited to Baghdad to witness these histrionics!

2. The important question is why does the Baghdad regime believe that these actions will prove effective and allow Baghdad to enter the international political arena? In my opinion, there are various factors which are projecting this impression, the most important is the conduct of the U.S. politicians in the region. Do the close friends of the United States have a better track record of voter turnout?

Either they do not have any elections at all or they have the kind of elections that were held in Egypt. The Baghdad regime does not see any problems in being undemocratic. However its current situation is also of interest to the United States for a thousand reasons. There is also interest on Saudi Arabia's part as well. This is because since 1990 Saudi Arabia has been producing 3 million barrels of oil per day in excess of its quota.

If Iraq can return to a normal situation, naturally its first steps will be to export its oil. This would cause Saudi Arabia to lose its daily income of $36 million. This would be extremely unpleasant for Saudi Arabia's economy, which is already under pressure!

3. The net result is that the Baghdad regime is testing its popular appeal and playing an unprincipled and unregulated game. The Americans can capitalize on this entire process in two ways: It must preserve the status quo and bring about controlled change and upheaval, which is the basis of the U.S. policy on Iraq. Of course,

the United States had promised that Saddam's regime would be toppled in 1991. However, this promise was not fulfilled and it does not seem very advisable to carry this out now!

4. There are no predictions of major achievements until the next U.S. presidential election (in November 1996). This should not be considered as bad news because the United States is carrying out the greatest act of plunder in the region's history. All the governments which depend on force are safeguarding U.S. policies and interests in the region.

Just as this method did not work for the British and Russian empires, it will not work for Washington's imperialism either. In my opinion, it would be far more preferable if the situation in Iraq were forged by the will of the people even though it will take a few years until the Americans can decide on a regional government. The wave of awakening evident in the Islamic world is a source of extreme optimism.

Editorial on Iraqi Suffering Due to UN Sanctions

NC1910203295 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "If Good Doesn't Fight Evil, Evil Will Triumph"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Let us forget about Saddam Husayn for a moment. The fact is that due to the sanctions on Iraq since 1991, Iraqi children are starving, malnourished, and some are dying.

It is not the children's fault that they have a leader such as Saddam. Because their leader behaves in such a way, the UN has imposed economic sanctions on Iraq; and these sanctions have resulted in deplorable hardships on the Iraqi people.

The UN has offered Iraq to exchange oil for food and medicine but the Iraqi government has refused on the grounds that it will deprive Iraq of its sovereignty. The Iraqi government does not cooperate with the international community even to feed its own people.

Throughout the world people are donating less and less money for the relief aid to Iraq—something to the order of 12 million dollars were received instead of the 183 million expected. This is most likely because people do not know where their money will go. Will it reach the children, as food and medicine, or will it reach the pockets of already rich and corrupt officials? Also, the image of the people and their leader gets muddled. Not every Iraqi is a little Saddam.

So be it. However, it has been said that good men must fight evil. The only force we have against evil is the opposing force residing in the will of the good. If the good give up, evil shall triumph. The problem with this is that it creates a lot of hard work for the good.

Never mind Saddam Husayn and never mind UN resolutions. There are Iraqi children who, for no fault of their own, are victims of an anomalous leader with a mustache. The world community, the Red Cross and other organizations, should simply load trucks with food and medicine and begin delivering them to needy Iraqis.

No UN resolutions, no laws, and no gentlemen's agreements with an ungentlemanly leader. Only goodwill, pure and simple.

Sheykholeslam: Israeli Threats 'Empty'

LD2110094095 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA — The deputy foreign minister for Arab-African affairs, Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, said that Israel's warning about attacking Iran's atomic installations at Bushehr is an empty threat.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES published Saturday, he stressed, "We will not be affected by such empty threats and propaganda."

The Israeli regime has no justification for carrying out what it calls a 'deterrent' act, he said, adding, "although the possibility of such an attack is very remote we are fully prepared to give an appropriate response. The damages (to be) incurred (by) Israel would be very heavy."

The paper further quoted Russian Power Production Minister Yevgeniy Reshentnikov as saying that Russian experts will begin their work on the Bushehr power plant next month and the plant will be operational by the year 2000.

About 200 Russian technicians are working at present on the project and the assembling of the plant will begin in December, the TEHRAN TIMES further reported.

It quoted another Russian official, Aleksandr Dzasokov, a member of the Duma (the lower house of parliament) as saying early this month that Moscow's relations with Iran are crucial for Russia, as they can seriously affect regional balance.

Iran's nuclear power plant is for peaceful purposes, Sheykholeslam stressed, adding that Russia will go ahead with its plans to collaborate with Iran.

Grachev Said To Visit Iran in 'Near Future'

LD2210111695 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA — The Russian defense minister, Pavel Grachev, will be pay a visit to iran after necessary coordination is made between the two sides, announced an Iranian senior official here Sunday.

Advisor to the Iranian defense minister and logistics department of the armed forces Shokrollah Riazi, told IRNA that Grachev had enthusiastically accepted the invitation extended to him by his Iranian counterpart to visit Iran. But, he stressed, necessary coordination should be made between the two sides prior to the visit. Such coordination, Riazi added, had not yet been made.

The morning English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES in its Tuesday issue quoting an informed official at Iran's Defense Ministry wrote that the Russian defense minister was due to visit Iran in a near future.

Riazi added that Grachev is expected to visit Iran to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Official Questions Azerbaijan's Legitimacy

NC2210135195 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 22 (AFP) — An Iranian official has questioned the legitimacy of Azerbaijan, a former Soviet republic, saying history would never recognize a state with such a name.

"Regions or provinces bearing the name of Azerbaijan have always been part of Iranian territory," the governor of Iran's East Azerbaijan province, 'Ali Abdolalizadeh, said in an interview published Sunday [22 September] in KEYHAN-E HAVA'I weekly. He accused Azerbaijani leaders and its official press of "launching a propaganda campaign" against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The official also denounced Baku's state television for airing a program in which an Iranian exile referred to Iran's Azerbaijan region as "occupied territory" which should be incorporated into the state of Azerbaijan. "If Baku leaders raise such a claim, they would be the losers," he warned, urging Azerbaijani authorities to end "their seditious propaganda campaign."

Abdolalizadeh accused Israel of stirring up Baku's claims on Iranian territory. "Israel has gained a foothold in Azerbaijan and it will spare no effort to engage in provocations" against Iran.

Relations have been sour between Tehran and Baku for several months, mainly because of a dispute over the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the Caspian Sea which borders both countries. Under US pressure, Azerbaijan in March excluded Iran from an international consortium developing offshore oil fields in Azerbaijani territorial waters.

Iran contests Azerbaijan's right to exploit the Caspian's resources unilaterally and wants a halt until a legal convention is drawn up by the five countries bordering the sea. Russia has backed the call.

Caller Asks About Afghanistan's Taleban Group

NC2310092195 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Oct 95 p 2

["Special Answer to a Telephone Call" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified caller] Since the Taleban Group enjoys relative superiority in Afghanistan and in view of the fact that the ideas of this group are similar to foreign ones, I would like to know what the Iranian Government's stand on this group is. If the Taleban Group succeeds, will the government that it forms be accepted by the entire Afghan nation and will that government move toward Islamic rule? And if it does come to power, will the Taleban Group be recognized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran? Please tell us what this group believes in.

[SALAM] Trying to analyze the creation and formation of Afghan groups, which are mainly rooted in the ethnic and religious structure of that country, is a complicated and endless task, since we continuously see groups emerging there. That is why these groups lack a specific doctrine, thus making it difficult to figure out how they think, even though the general lines of their policies can be discerned.

For example, reports say the Taleban Group is a Wahhabi [Saudi] group and is extremely anti-Shiite and that, because of its ethnic makeup, it supports the rights of the Pashtuns in Afghanistan. The support that they enjoy from foreign governments such as America and Saudi Arabia is said to be proof of this. But concerning the question of Iran's relations with this group that enjoys relative superiority at this point, it should be said that the events in Afghanistan over the past three years have shown that the relative superiority of one group at one juncture cannot be used to predict the future strength of that particular group. Also, these developments and processes seem to show that developments inside Afghanistan are an exception to all rules and laws.

As far as Iran's relations with the Taleban Group are concerned, since this group was created spontaneously and has no record of anticommunist jihad, Iran has no relations with it. However, we have always had close relations with all the other groups that participated in the jihad against communism.

We can assure you that because of the conditions in Afghanistan, this group will never be able to take power on its own; and even if it does succeed in forcefully getting all of Afghanistan under its domination, it will never be accepted by the majority of the Afghan people. However, if a government accepted by the majority of Afghans comes to power and respects the rights of the minorities, naturally that government will be recognized by Iran and the principle of good-neighborly relations will govern our relations.

Radio on NATO 'Crisis' After Claes Resignation

LD2110140995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following cancellation of political immunity of Willy Claes, the secretary general of NATO, by the parliament of Belgium, he reportedly resigned from his post on Friday, 20 October. Claes's decision for stepping down from his post as NATO's secretary general has come about following accusations of embezzlement and financial corruption. Claes is accused of receiving bribe from Italian and French companies when he served as minister of economy in 1988 and 1990.

At present appointing a successor to Claes has turned into a riddle in NATO's leadership in such a way that on the sideline of holding the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations in New York, 16 foreign ministers of NATO members are supposed to talk on selection of the successor to Willy Claes. The talks will be so difficult and controversial that political observers believe this meeting will be raised as a turning point in NATO's leadership after the cold war. The U.S. Government officials have expressed regret over resignation of Claes because they have always backed Claes and describing his role in drawing up and implementing NATO's security plans as determining.

With the resignation of Willy Claes we should expect divergence of opinions among European countries and the United States in relation to selection of a stable successor for these countries. On the one hand European countries are making efforts so that NATO's new secretary general will be selected from among European personalities. The post is regarded as the highest non-military official of the organization because commander of NATO's military section is at the disposal of America. The White House is after a Secretary general who is in noticeable harmony with U.S. European policies, one like Willy Claes.

Political analysts believe that at present NATO stands on the point of historical development because the strategy of the expansion of NATO south and east of Europe, on the one hand, and preparation of this organization for dispatch of multi-national forces to Bosnia, on the other, has given special sensitivity to NATO. Mission of peace-preservation in Bosnia is, in its kind, NATO's first long-term mission since the end of the cold war in 1989. It is at the same time regarded as the first mission of the ground force since its establishment in 1949. Given NATO's new strategy in expansion toward theeast and center of Europe and its security plans, the resignation of Willy Claes has confronted NATO with a crisis. In the opinion of American Government officials, Willy Claes's resignation has inflicted a heavy blow to NATO.

Velayati Views Future Role of UN

LD2310100695 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ., New York, Oct. 23, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Sunday [22 October] that the key to ensuring the success and continued relevance, as well as the moral authority and legitimacy of the United Nations in the next millennium, is the reinvigoration of the underlying concept of sovereign equality and its full application in all aspects of the work of the organization.

Making the remark at the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, he added that this implies, first and foremost, enhancing the role of the General Assembly as the most democratic and representative organ of the United Nations, removing institutionalized and implicit centers of privilege and influence, and respecting the values of the equal constituent elements of this unique universal mosaic.

There exists today an overwhelming, and indeed justified, expectation that the dark years of the cold war should now be followed by a bright era of peace, security, prosperity and welfare, and a demand that the United Nations translates this expectation to reality, he further stated.

No longer a captive of the East-West rivalry, the United Nations is deemed by many to enjoy the power, ability, mandate and means to influence genuine change in the world and design and establish a new order more attuned to the basic elements of justice and equality, he said.

This view is countered with another perception that considers the United Nations as merely a talking place, where nations can express opinions, while decisions lie eventually in the hands of those with greater power and ability to influence events and issues, Velayati stressed.

The United Nations is seen as a gigantic bureaucracy, so ineffective and inefficient that it can hardly rectify its own problems and deficiencies, much less resolve complex problems at the global level, he remarked, adding that to many, the United Nations is an organization worthy of some consideration and contribution, but its scope and realm of activity should be strictly limited and firm and inviolable borders should be drawn around it.

Neither view reflects reality, he observed, as "the United Nations is mandated to deal with economic and social development, trade, environment, human rights and a vast range of issues of international character."

It is also empowered to react to threats against international peace and security, to resolve conflicts, prevent wars and pursue disarmament, the iranian minister noted.

It is even provided with some means of enforcing decisions, including resort to coercive measures and use of force under exceptional circumstances, he pointed out, but added that, it does not have the power or prerogative to formulate policies and act on its own, and is obliged to follow the collective will of the international community on every issue.

In another part of his speech, Velayati underlined that selectivity is rampant, whether in the fields of peace and security, disarmament, conflict resolution, peace making and peace keeping, or in areas of development, trade, environment and human rights.

"Levels of intrusion are dictated by the agenda of the powerful states," he said, adding that this practice "breeds friction, uncertainty and skepticism, at the same time that it erodes confidence in the work of the organization."

Indeed, what has united us in this world body is our collective acceptance of the purposes and principles of the united nations, so eloquently enshrined in the charter, he noted, and stressed that adherence to and respect for these principles will undoubtedly strengthen the organization and enhance its role.

He added that any attempt to evade the responsibilities that member nations have undertaken under this covenant, however appealing and convenient this action might appear in the short term, will sow the seeds of the gradual disintegration of the united nations.

"There can be no justification for any attempt to impose the will or values of a handful over the rest of humanity, or to enhance the perception of security of the privileged few at the expense of subjecting the rest of humanity to the nightmare of nuclear holocaust," Velayati emphasized.

Arms control and elimination of weapons of mass destruction are therefore the necessary first step to save this and the succeeding generations from the scourge of war, he continued.

"Much of the ills of the international community stem from diversion of precious resources from development to arms race, while underdevelopment bears directly on international crises and the peace-making efforts of the United Nations," he said.

Adding to an already complex problem are unilateral economic measures, ranging from protectionist policies and various forms of conditionalities, to outright coercive economic measures and the United States' policy of economic terrorism against independent states, as well as the attempts to push aside the development agenda of the United Nations, Velayati stated.

The efforts of the United Nations system in the area of cooperation for development, particularly those carried out by specialized agencies and programs, have had the primary contribution of introducing ordinary people in the remotest parts of the world to the name, if not the ideals, of the United Nations, he remarked and added that the development agenda of this world body should not be overshadowed by other more glamorous subjects or undermined in the course of reform.

Indeed, Velayati stressed, the needs and aspiration of these very same people, who constitute the majority of humanity, must be the focus and foundation of any effort to revitalize, restructure and reform the organization, whose conceptual objectives should be to render the United Nations decision-making process transparent, democratic, rule based and inclusive.

This is in total contrast with the self-arrogated position of leadership of the United States, which insists on misusing its position within the organization, he said, concluding that even at this 50th anniversary of the world body, the United States reserves for itself a resort to unilateral measures against the will of the United Nations.

Daily on New Gubernatorial Appointments

NC2110150595 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] New governors have been appointed for the districts of Astara, Divandarreh, and Someh-ye Sara. According to the public relations department of the Interior Ministry, Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati issued orders appointing 'Ali Rostamian Sabzehkhani as the governor of Divandarreh district in Kordestan, 'Abdorreza Biazar as the governor of Astara, and Esma'il Hadipur as the governor of

Someh-ye Sara in Gilan. They have all assumed their duties.

Caller: 'Open' Atmosphere Can Help Solve Problems

NC2310075895 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Oct 95 p 2

["Special Answer to a Telephone Call" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified caller] Some 5 million French employees went on strike to protest unjust conditions. The French Government granted them the right to do so, without any problems being caused for the rulers. Why is the smallest protest movement in our country considered to be a confrontation against the system and banned on the pretext of preventing the weakening of the system?

[SALAM] This is not the outlook of all our officials. If protest movements or strikes by some workers have unfavorable consequences, rather than being a factor that weakens a system, it should be regarded within the framework of the psychological atmosphere that is created by incorrect propaganda — propaganda that tries to say that we have no protests at home and that all the people agree with us [the rule] 100 percent.

However, we think that in order to prove that a system is popular in nature, first of all, it is not necessary to resort to such means. Secondly, we believe that the world does not believe such propaganda, and that there is no rule or system in the world which enjoys 100 percent support by the people. Only the support of the majority is needed to prove the legitimacy of a system, and the larger this majority, the stronger the system.

However, since we believe that 100 percent popular support is necessary and we propagandize this; since we believe that the world believes us and that our credibility in the world stems from this 100 percent support, we consider the smallest movement in the opposite direction to be harmful to the system, forgetting the fact that closing up society results in more and more opponents emerging from among the supporters and that this may gradually reach a point where a cure may be difficult, if not impossible. However, an open society will help people to express all the dissatisfactions that they are keeping locked up inside, thus giving the officials an opportunity to identify the sources causing dissatisfaction and take measures to overcome them. This will help the society and the officials to coexist in a balanced atmosphere where problems are solved. But unfortunately the theory of plotting makes it difficult for us to solve problems through methodical and principled means.

Khamenei Addresses Crowd in Gonbad-e Karvus

LD2210154995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0741 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Speech by 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, in Gonbad-e Kavus; monitored in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ... The enemy's lackeys either destroy all the country's resources or purloin them for their own benefit. In this very expansive plain in Gorgan, in this area of the country, the mercenary lackeys and agents of the Pahlavi dynasty used to come and take over hundreds, thousands of hectares of land — a land which brings forth the white gold, is the center of nurturing God's blessing — without any regard to their owners. That is the meaning of the government being in the hands of the enemies of religion and humanity and the opponents of Islam and the Koran. That is the meaning of the separation of religion and politics. [passage omitted]

The enemies put out propaganda saying that religion is separate from politics. That is in order to enable themselves to enter the people's lives without the guidance of religion. If they wished to make the country to be reliant on a foreign power, if they wished to establish relations with the usurper Zionists, if they wished to plunder the people's possessions, something called religion should not be there to prevent them. That is the meaning of the separation of religion and politics. Our youth must realize this, especially those who are academically inclined, are pupils, university students, and who seek religious science. They must understand fully what the conspiracy of separation of religion and politics means. [passage omitted]

That was one issue.

The second issue, which has been opposed by Iran's enemies right from the start, is the issue of the unity and unanimity of the nation. In the first months after the victory of the revolution, you, the people of this area — whether Persian or Turkmen — recall that what the enemies of the Iranian nation did in this area in the name of separation of races. The Turkmen brothers themselves delivered a heavy blow on their mouths and drove them away. [crowd chants: "God is Great", "Death to America"] And the loyal soldiers of the revolution, the guardians of the Islamic revolution and the combatant popular forces gave them their response.

Fortunately this region, thank God, is a manifestation of unanimity, of fraternity. The divisive hands, those who wish to tear the Iranian nation apart should come here to witness this turbulent sea of faithful human beings;

Sunnis and Shia's, Persians and Turkmens side by side; with one aspiration, with one love; facing one objective; sharing the same resolution. They are living side by side, and the holy system of the Islamic Republic is duty bound to value this unity; bring each and every one of the people closer together. And with God's grace it will do that.

The enemy has tried to prevent the Iranian nation from experiencing the sweet taste of the sovereignty of Islam by such means as the imposed eight-year war and various disruptive acts. We thank God that the enemy did not succeed; and it will not succeed in the future either. Whenever necessary, the Iranian nation will deliver a hard punch to the mouths of the enemies and nonsense- speakers. [Crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to the hypocrite," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] [passage omitted]

Another issue I would like to comment on briefly is, dear brothers and sisters, that people should be aware of the realities of the country, religion and essential issues regarding the world. People should know that their country is in the process of a great movement. The youth and different strata in this region should know and be aware of the country's progress, its resources and all the work being carried out in every part of it. The cultural movement is a necessary one — of course, there are some customs and traditions which prevent different classes in society to perform their duties properly.

I have heard — of course, I do hope from the bottom of my heart, that what I have heard may be wrong — I have heard that women are not receiving the proper respect due to them. It seems that women are not being allowed to attend public functions sometimes. Of course, in today's gathering — in today's gathering the presence of the sisters is, God be thanked, quite impressive. But I have heard that some people — not everyone — are not allowing women to attend the Friday sermons and other gatherings. This is not correct.

Religious and Muslim women have always stood alongside faithful men everywhere. We do know that in the early days of Islam there have been women who have even participated and fought in holy wars. Of course taking part in jihad is not obligatory for women but it is also not forbidden [haram]. So women who want to and are able to, can be present in the arenas of jihad. This is what Islam is about. Islam does not ban women from participating in religious, educational, political, social, and cultural activities. Women are able to — though they must, of course, conform to the hijab [Islamic dress] and behave within the limits that religion allows and they must be aware of the corruption which the enemy is trying to spread. This done, they should participate in different arenas.

What there exists among women, that is, between some communities in this region, which is bad — at least I have heard that this is what happens in some places here — is that some men [as heard] force their daughters to marry against their will. This is forbidden [haram] in Islam. Marriage is not allowed without a woman's permission. Almighty God respects men's, women's, and human beings' wills in all affairs. When you want to do a small deal, both sides have to be satisfied. Marriage is an important issue; the fate of a person depends on it. How can it be allowed for girls to be sent to the homes of men whom they are not fond of and do not want to marry. [Cheers and slogan chanting, mostly by women, including: "God is great", "Death to America"]. [passage omitted]

That which is of importance to the Iranian nation today is that the enemies of the Iranian nation have tasted defeat in their confrontation with the Iranian nation and government in various fields. Starting from less than a year ago until today, the U.S. Government has announced its opposition to the Iranian Government and nation on several important issues: One was on the issue of the agreement and accord on nuclear energy with Russia; another was the issue of imposing economic and oil sanctions on Iran; and another related to the issue of an important agreement between Iran and an African country.

On these three issues, the Americans announced their opposition openly and explicitly and said: We will not allow these things to take place, because they will make Iran strong and we do not want Iran to be strong. The Americans did everything they could — that is, the American government, since the American nation has no wish to oppose our nation. The U.S. Government did everything it could over these three issues in recent months — it has been less than a year since the start of all of this. It made political efforts. Its leaders made many journeys. They sent people all over the world so that they could resolve these three issues, which occurred one after the other, to their own advantage and, in their own words, against the interests of the Iranian nation.

Praise be to God, as a result of the efforts of our officials — and the efforts of officials depend on the support of you, the nation — please pay attention to this point: If the country's officials can speak with strength on international issues and can drive their points home, it is because of your support. The country's political officials were able, through their efforts and with God's help, to defeat the United States on all three issues and to achieve what they wanted. With the assistance of the Iranian nation, the Iranian Government and nation succeeded in slapping the U.S. in the face once again. [crowd chants in support].

Exactly the same thing holds on economic issues, on political issues, on propaganda related issues. As long as our dear nation is present on the stage of the revolution, as long as this unity exists, as long as there is this sympathy between the people and officials, as long as every single member of the Iranian nation feels indebted to his or her revolution and wants to repay that debt, the enemy will not be able to inflict a blow on this nation by any means.

My dear ones, this is the message of the revolution. This is the message of Islam. This is the message of the imam [Khomeyni]: Value this unity. Value the honor of Islam. Value the government of Islam and the Koran. Value the sovereignty of religion. Value steadfastness before the enemy, for there is no greater honor than this for a nation. This will also win God's satisfaction. In other words, goodness in this world and in the other world lies in reliance on Islam, in obedience to the revolution, in loyalty and devotion to the sacred Islamic system and in this unity of expression which, God be praised, can be witnessed among all the people. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Rafsanjani's Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2110145395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his address to Tehran's congregational Friday prayer on October 20th, commented on two issues. One was the recent demonstration of the blacks in America and the causes and motives for this large social movement in that country. President Rafsanjani described the American blacks' rally as indicative of the awareness of the nations, especially the Muslim ummah of the world, for restoring their rights. Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani also said the impact of Islam on this movement is the most important political moves for the American Government officials.

Another important question dealt with in the president's speech was his recent tour of three Asian countries. In analyzing the result of this tour, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani evaluated the visit to Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh as a reflection of the manifestation of Iran's political and economic prestige, significance, and unique situation in the region.

A look at the political and economic gains of President Hashemi- Rafsanjani's 10-day tour of southeast and south Asia confirms the president's comments that today's Iran has reached an economic growth and advancement that is capable of vast export of services, consultancy, technical operations, and engineering of production line in lieu of export of raw material and oil. Signing of contracts in the fields of commissioning of petrochemical industries and refinery, construction of cement factory, food industry, and agriculture constitute part of the vast agreements reached in the course of President Rafsanjani's Asian tour. What is of significance beyond these agreements is the activities of Iran in industrial and service affairs' regional and international scale. What was stressed in the president's speech is in fact elaboration of these successes and precise evaluation of the fact that today grounds for Iran's active industrial and service activities at regional and international level are provided. Undoubtedly visit to southeast Asia and south Asia of President Rafsanjani, who signed over 30 agreements and memorandum of understandings in different fields of mutual and trilateral cooperation, the tempo of Iran's successes in regional and international cooperation will duplicate. [sentence as heard]

Pakistan

Senator Demands 'Clear Statement' on Arrests

BK2210120895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Oct 95 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed article: "Army Should Clear Doubts About Arrests: Sen. Tariq"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD — Senator Tariq Chaudhry has again demanded of the army leadership to take public into confidence over the arrests of army officers.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday [21 October], he said the incident concerned the entire nation and it was not just an issue involving the "so-called troika." Mr Chaudhry expressed his surprise over the silence kept by the ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] and the Ministry of Defence [MoD].

"Army is a national institution. It is not anybody's personal property."

"Therefore, I demand of the ISPR and the MoD not to hide facts from the public and come out with a clear statement."

He said three weeks have passed and yet the army as well as the government was not clearing up the confusion in the minds of the people. He said even in the case of Seismic Station at Chakwal, Pakistanis came to know about it through a press conference by a U.S. official in New Delhi.

The senator, who claimed he was still a member of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Junejo), was also dissatisfied with the comments made by President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in thus regard.

"Their remarks were insufficient and inappropriate and have added more to the confusion."

Tariq Chaudhry, who has found an issue after quite some time, seems to be making full use of it. He did not agree with the president's assertion that there was no restlessness in the country because of the arrests. He said people were very much worried. He regretted the attitude of some senior politicians who had issued "irresponsible" statements on the failed coup.

He said the point to ponder was why such senior officers had put their careers at stake. "There must be certain reasons for this. As long as authorities do not make the facts public, speculation would continue. Whether it was a drama to appease the United States, or it was targetted against the top army leadership; or it was in reaction to the current Kashmir policy, all these suppositions would continue to breed."

To a question, he said he did not know whether the incident had anything to do with possible extension of Army Chief General Abdul Waheed.

He said he had had indirect contacts with the ISPR. He was also amazed as to why the family members of the arrested officers were of talking to anybody.

The senator also confirmed that he had met Major General Zaheerul Islam and Brigadier Mustasir Billah but it was some time back. "When we want to Slachin on a visit, he was there to receive us."

The senator also condemned both the government and the opposition for their conduct. "Both these parties are no different from each other. There is only one bone of contention that is how to be in power. Benazir Bhutto capped the country's nuclear plan in 1989. But when Nawaz Sharif came into power, he did not uncap it either.

On Kashmir, both of them have supported third option and third party's mediation on the direction of the United States.

The senator said in order to fulfill the U.S. ambitions, Pakistan had also created problems for itself in Afghanistan.

He also predicted that the country was heading for a serious economic crisis where people would even find it difficult to afford food. "The schedule of raise in prices over the next few years, as agreed with the IMF, is going to turn Pakistan into another Somalia."

He said while Nawaz Sharif was in London, expecting supporters to topple the government through protest days, Prime Minister Bhutto had gone to the United States after destroying the country's system and looting national wealth.

16 of 36 Arrested Army Officers Stripped of Ranks

BK2210160295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Pakistan, 16 of the 36 army officers arrested for planning a coup against the Benazir Bhutto government have been formally charge-sheeted. According to agency reports, all the arrested officers have been stripped of their ranks and placed under the charge of the station headquarters. Lieutenant General Javed Nasir former Inter Services Intelligence chief is reported to be among the arrested.

Sri Lanka

Military Mounts Offensive To Take Tiger Heartland

BK2210093695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 22 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military said Sunday [22 October] its war against rebel Tamil guerrillas had escalated and nearly 200 people, including 73 Sinhalese civilians, were killed in overnight violence.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the military's offensive in the northern Jaffna peninsula was unstoppable and the fall of Jaffna town, the capital of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was imminent.

"We have now launched the biggest ever military offensive in Jaffna. The LTTE cannot stop our march to Jaffna by killing innocent unarmed civilians," Munasinghe told reporters here.

The separatist war, which began in 1972, has claimed more than 50,000 lives as the LTTE attempts to establish an independent homeland called Eelam in the north and east of the nation.

Heavy hand-to-hand battles raged in the Jaffna peninsula as security forces captured the village of Atchchelu, just eight kilometres (five miles) from Jaffna town, which the Tigers vowed to defend to their last man.

Official figures showed 197 people were killed Saturday. Among them were 14 soldiers and an estimated 106 Tamil Tigers killed in the latest battle in the Jaffna peninsula, and 73 Sinhalese villagers hacked to death by Tamil rebels in the island's east, said Munasinghe.

Four other civilians were also killed Saturday: two were caught in crossfire and two Tamils were killed by a mob in the capital Colombo

Munasinghe said the LTTE's spectacular bombing of the main oil storage depots here on Friday as well as the massacre of civilians were aimed at diverting the attention of security forces from the island's north.

"We are going to put an end to this violence by the LTTE. We are going to liberate the Tamil people from the LTTE in Jaffna. So please don't cause any trouble elsewhere to distract us," he said.

He said the latest military offensive, launched Tuesday, was being intensified to capture the town of Jaffna.

Western diplomats said the LTTE's attacks against non-military targets indicated the guerrillas were convinced that, for the first time in five years, the army threat to Jaffna town was serious.

Munasinghe said an unspecified amount of infant food was sent to the area to feed children likely to be made refugees by the offensive.

"We have also sent a lot of women soldiers to take care of the civilians who are going to be displaced. A ministerial team is already looking into the refugee aspect," Munasinghe said.

The government was also activating the para-military civil defence force to help police maintain law and order in the rest of the country as fighting intensified in the north, Information Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said.

A city-wide night curfew was lifted at dawn Sunday as security was tightened at the international airport, state radio and television stations and elsewhere.

Police Inspector-General W. B. Rajaguru said several Tamil rebels who were involved in the attacks on the oil storage depots Friday may still be roaming the streets.

"Our initial information was that all those responsible for the attack were either arrested or met with their deaths as a result of military action. But we now believe several others could still be around," Rajaguru said.

At least 22 security personnel and civilians and seven LTTE cadres were killed in the attacks against the oil depots on Friday.

Defense Ministry Reports on Operation Riviresa

BK2010143695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At least 70 Tigers have been killed and over 150 severely wounded during heavy fighting with the security forces on Wednesday [18 October], the second day of Operation Riviresa.

The Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence said troops captured a number of LTTE positions during Wednesday's advance into Tiger territory. Heavy fighting raged in several areas in the afternoon.

"They were not able to hold on to their positions for long. They resisted the troops initially but fled the area later, leaving their dead and their belongings. Troops recovered 31 bodies of terrorists," it said.

Fourteen soldiers were killed in action on Wednesday. Two officers and 41 soldiers were wounded bringing the total number of security forces casualties in the two days of fighting to 50 killed and nearly 300 wounded. The military claims killing over 130 rebels and wounding over 250. The operation is continuing.

Several thousand ground troops backed by the Air Force, armour and artillery launched the operation code named 'Riviresa' against the rebel Tamil Tigers at first light Tuesday by breaking out of their Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) of the Palaly military enclave in the northern Jaffna peninsula. They have since advanced more than 3.5 kilometres southwards from the FDLs. "The advance is progressing satisfactorily,'' a military spokesman in Colombo said. Tigers were reported to be moving in reinforcements to face the advancing troops.

Wednesday's fighting took the Tiger death toll to more than 130. The LTTE's clandestine 'Voice of Tigers' which admitted heavy Tiger casualties has so far announced the names of 48 of their cadres who died in the fighting.

According to the spokesman, air force and artillery were used to pound the rebel positions ahead of advancing troops at dawn on Wednesday. He denied rebel claims over their clandestine radio that civilians were targetted, and at least 40 civilians were killed in the air strikes. He said that thousands of them had fled the area before the operation began.The rebel figures given over their clandestine radio 'Voice of the Tigers' differed from that in a statement issued from their London office which stated that 22 civilians were killed and 17 wounded in air attacks Wednesday. NGO officials said that thousands of civilians abandoned their homes in anticipation of the fighting after the air force dropped leaflets during the weekend urging civilians to move away from LTTE facilities.

The Security forces recently completed the Operation Thunder Strike, capturing 25 square kilometres of territory. Over 300 Tigers who tried to launch a counter-attack were killed.

Army Gains in North, Captures Hospital

BK2110150695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 21 (AFP) — The military claimed killing at least 106 Tamil guerrillas Saturday [21 October] in fierce battles that raged following an army advance for a fifth straight day in Sri Lanka's embattled north.

Government troops lost four men while 18 others were wounded in the latest fighting on the northern Jaffna peninsula, the main stronghold of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a military spokesman said.

Troops advanced two kilometers (1.2 miles) and captured Achchelu government hospital from the LTTE, the spokesman said, adding that the medical facility was stocked with a large quantity of medicines.

At least 106 LTTE militants were killed and another 200 wounded in the fighting, the spokesman said.

The latest casualties raised to 66 the number of security personnel killed since the offensive codenamed Rivirasa, or Sunshine, was launched on Tuesday from the main Palaly military complex at the northern tip of the peninsula.

LTTE casualties for the same period rose to 196 dead, according to military estimates.

The LTTE is seeking to set up an independent nation in the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils. More than 50,000 have been killed in the protracted ethnic conflict.

Military Spokesman: 'LTTE Cannot Stop Us'

BK2210153495 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1124 GMT 22 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 22 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — In a message to the people of Jaffna, military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said at Sunday's [22 October] cabinet news briefing in Colombo that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cannot stop the Sri Lankan security forces from liberating Jaffna. He said, "I want to tell the people of Jaffna that the LTTE cannot stop us. We are coming to liberate you from the LTTE. Please give us your cooperation and come to the areas controlled by the security forces. We will care for you well."

He said operation "Riviresa" (sun rays) which began last Tuesday will continue. He described it as the biggest security forces operation conducted in Jaffna so far, even bigger than the Vadamarachchi operation in 1987.

In response to a question he said, on Saturday the security forces had captured the Achchelu Government Hospital located 8 km from the city of Jaffna. The patients there were LTTErs [LTTE activists] wounded in action.

The task force headed by Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva was now in the Palali military base making arrangements to care for the civilians.

Not a single civilian casualty has been reported in the five days of fighting except the wounding of 11 old persons by LTTE mortar fires at the elders home in Achchuvely.

The military spokesman said the LTTE after disguising themselves as civilians and when wounded tried to show that it was the civilians not the Tiger fighters that were wounded.

There was also in place a group of women soldiers who would care for the sick and little children and even had stocks of infant milk food in readiness.

So far the LTTE has lost 350 terrorists killed and over 500 wounded in the operation.

The security forces has lost one officer and 75 soldiers killed in action and 11 officers and 232 other ranks wounded.

Close quarter combat had been reported in the first day of the operation when troops broke out of their forward defence localities at Achchuvely and began moving along the Kuppilan Road.

On Saturday, too there had been close quarter combat where 106 Tigers were killed and 200 wounded. Fourteen soldiers were also killed and three officers and 42 other ranks injured.

Confirmed reports said that 120 Tiger bodies were taken to Jaffna for funeral rites.

Jaffna civilians were heeding requests made in air-dropped leaflets to go to places of safety, but the terrorists were now looting their homes.

Desperate calls had gone out from the LTTE leadership in Jaffna to its cadres in Trincomalee to send reinforcements to support the terrorists to defend themselves against the troops, but Trincomalee leaders had turned down their request. LTTE cadres on leave have deserted and had not rejoined the ranks.

Brigadier Munasinghe stressed that Friday's attack on two oil installations in Colombo has the objective of forcing the government to bring back security forces personnel from Jaffna due to ethnic riots which would follow the explosions. However, the authorities had acted swiftly and prevented any reprisals.

Additional secretary, Ministry of Power and Energy, Tilak Ranaviraja said in response to a question that the terrorists had missed their main target which was located in the zone two in Kolonnawa and instead set fire to two kerosene tanks at Kolonnawa and three diesel tanks at Orugodawatta.

He said there were adequate supplies of fuel and the pipelines leading to the filling points and to bowsers [as published] have been damaged. Hence, a temporary shortage of fuel which would be over by the next two days.

There are also adequate stocks of aviation fuel but they would not be released until tests are completed to ensure that they are not overheated.

However, Air Lanka and air force are being provided with necessary aviation fuel and foreign airlines have been asked to refuel at the next destination. This too, would be normal by next Wednesday.

Petrol was being sent to Galle and Matara in the south in barges until the railway and transport systems are repaired.

Public buses will be provided with adequate stocks of fuel. Already, fuel was being provided for public transport services including the railway, but not at optimum.

The total loss in terms of fuel was Rs. [rupees] 1.5 billion, he said.

Inspector General of Police [IGP] W.B Rajaguru said that 15-20 LTTE suicide squad terrorists, wearing army-type uniforms, operating in two groups had raided the oil installations early last Friday and set off the kerosene tank with a rocket propelled grenade while an electrical charge had been used at Orugodawatta.

He said a total of 20 armed forces personnel, police and civilians and seven terrorists were killed. Most of the terrorists wore suicide jackets containing explosives packed with ball bearings which were set off by a two-batteries operated switch.

A lorry and a van which transported the terrorists had been taken in to custody by the police and some weapons including two imported rocket launchers, three Arul grenades manufactured by LTTE in Jaffna, had been seized.

The IGP said the oil installations have been cleared of terrorists.

He said curfew has been imposed to prevent violence caused by inciters, some of whom were arrested under the public security act.

Minister: Swift Steps Taken To Prevent Violence

BK2210152595 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1142 GMT 22 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 22 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — Cabinet spokesman and Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said at Sunday's [22 October] cabinet news briefing in Colombo that the government had acted swiftly to prevent a repetition of July 1983 ethnic disturbances and taken the necessary security measures, including the clamping of a curfew in order to defy any tensions and prevent any acts of violence.

He said the cabinet had ensured that a tight security network was in place in Colombo and the suburbs and other important highly populated areas.

All police stations have been strengthened and a Civil Defence Force under former Air Chief Paddy Mendis has been reactivated.

He appealed to the public not to be goaded into acts of reprisals following acts of sabotage and other criminal activities by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to stop the security forces current offensive in Jaffna. The situation in the north would not be allowed to go on for much longer as it was greatly affecting the economy of the country and all necessary assistance was given the security forces to end the conflict successfully.

Answering a question, he said he was in London a few days ago and that there was no detrimental impact whatsoever on Sri Lanka's tourist industry caused by the LTTE raids on the oil installations in Colombo.

He said no tourist has so far been injured by violence in Sri Lanka.

Violence was not peculiar to Sri Lanka. For instance, when I was in London, a bomb had been exploded in the French underground railway injuring many people, he said.

Sri Lanka's tourist industry is currently headed for an all time high of 470,000 arrivals.

Tamil Rebels Hack 64 Villagers to Death in East

BK2110090295 Hong Kong AFP in English
0727 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 21 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas on Saturday [21 October] hacked to death at least 64 Sinhalese villagers in three massacres in eastern Sri Lanka, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

Gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) stormed the remote villages of Kollakanawadiya — near a larger village, Bowatta — Kambiliyaya, part of the Padaviya farming colony, and Mangalagama, in the eastern, he said.

He said the massacres were carried out as the vilagers slept, adding that the raiders avoided using their rifles to slay their victims in a bid not to alert residents of nearby villages.

He said the victims included women and children and they had been chopped to death with swords.

"They were pre-dawn attacks and shows the desperation of the terrorists. Because of the military pressure on them, the Tigers are now reverting to massacres," Munasinghe told AFP.

In one village, five children under the age of 14 were cut to death, Munasinghe said. The reports of the massacre were being censored locally to prevent a backlash against the minority Tamil community here, officials said.

The massacres came a day after the LTTE launched rocket attacks in the capital Colombo and devastated the largest oil storage depots and killed 22 security personnel for the loss of seven of their own men.

Munasinghe said the latest LTTE strikes came as security forces made steady gains inside the northern Jaffna peninsula where the LTTE maintains its de facto separate state.

"They knoW they have to give up Jaffna. It is just a matter of time and that is why they are getting so desperate. This is sheer desperation," Munasinghe said. There was no mention about the massacres in rebel radio broadcasts.

Shortly after calling off a 100-day truce with the government on April 19, the LTTE carried out a similar massacre of 42 members of the majority Sinhala community in another village in the eastern province.

That attack was condemned by both the International Red Cross and the Amensty International.

The Tiger guerrillas are leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Over 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting in the past 23 years.

Reporter Details Massacre

BK2210100895 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0733 GMT 22 Oct 95

["Pool Item": "On the Spot Report by Geoff Wijesinghe"; quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 21 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — I visited the farming villages of Mangala Oya and Bowatte in Sri Lanka's eastern Batticaloa District where LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists shot and hacked to death 52 innocent men, women, and children and allegedly raped and killed three women in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The Sri Lanka Air Force Bell 412 helicopter first flew us to Mangala Oya, a lonely village where peasant farmers eke an existence by growing wheat, green peas, and chillies on the dry hard caked soil.

The terrorists had shot and broken open the doors of four farming [words indistinct] carried out the massacres.

The homeguards living in the houses were manning the village bunker line when they heard shots being fired inside the village. The terrorists had penetrated Mangala Oya from the neighbouring border villages of Unichi and Shanthamalai on the southern foothills of the Thoppigala jungle, the principal LTTE base in Batticaloa.

Military intelligence reports state both operations were directed by the Thoppigala area leader Ram.

The terrorists had used T-56 and T-81 rifles, pistols, and kattys [knives] in their spree of bloodletting here and at Bowatte in Welikanda on the northern foothills of Thoppigala, on the border of the Plonnaruwa and Batticaloa Districts, designed according to military officials I spoke to there to set off a wave of reprisal killings in the south and to stop the current offensive by the security forces in Jaffna in which the terrorists are taking a terrific beating, having lost about 500 of its military wing cadres during the last three weeks and with another 600 wounded, the LTTE fighting machine is rapidly grinding to a halt. [sentence as received]

On Saturday alone, troops of Operation Riviresa killed 106 terrorists and captured the Atchuvely hospital, losing only two soldiers killed in action.

Both at Mangala Oya and Bowatte the terrorists had used identical tactics of firing at the police post at Mangala Oya and the army detachment at Welikanda, while simultaneously attacking the farmers and their families.

We were on our way to the farming village of Padaviya in Weli Oya in the northern Mullaitivu District where 20 villagers were reported butchered by the LTTE when bad weather forced the helicopter to divert and return to Colombo.

I saw the bodies of the 36 farming families at Bowatta, mostly women and their little children. Their bodies lay on the floor and in pools of blood on the two slabs in the small morgue at Welikanda.

Four little children, brothers and sisters were huddled lying together, a little eight year old boy his eyes still open, were looking heavenwards, the place where all children are assured of because of their innocence.

At Mangala Oya, a little boy had hidden under a table in his little cottage to escape the murderers, but he had been discovered and shot dead.

Another seven year boy was luckier. He had been hiding under a chair when a terrorist had come and sat on it. This boy whom I spoke, showed me how he had miraculously escaped.

But, a young attractive teenage girl of Bowatte was unluckier. She had hidden in a haystack only to be discovered and killed.

Three young women were allegedly raped by the terrorists at Mangala Oya. According to a villager, one of the terrorists had snatched an infant from her mothers arms, thrown the child outside and then raped and killed the woman.

A 10-year-old boy clad in orange night shorts and a blue banian [shirt] lay face downwards, an [word indistinct] with which he had tried to defend himself lay beside him. He had been shot through the ear with a pistol in the garden, as he tried to escape. All those hacked to death had gaping wounds on their heads.

Villagers said that, but for the courage of the homeguards manning the bunkerline at Bowatta most of the inhabitants of the sprawling village which has 450 farming families would have been killed.

At Mangala Oya, the homeguards, on hearing shots from inside the homes had rushed to the scene and opened fire with their shot guns and .303 rifles, causing the raiders to stop the attack and leave in a hurry.

K.D. Gunapala of Mangala Oya, a farmer, told me that he discovered a group of terrorists heading for his house when he heard them talking in Tamil.

This was about 0030 hours (local time) Saturday. He shouted "The Tigers are coming", then got his wife AND two children behind him and opened fire with his shot gun which had only a single bullet. A Tiger had then advanced with a katty, but Gunapala had pulled out his own katty and dealt the terrorist a blow, and providentially it was at this time that the homeguards arrived to their rescue and the attackers vanished into the night.

A. Gunabanda, a farmer and a volunteer homeguard said he had returned home from the fields and was going back to guard his crops when he heard shouts that "the Tigers are coming". A group of terrorists had passed close to him. He had escaped by climbing a coconut tree and remaining there till morning.

Kalyani Wimalawathie and her little son were sleeping on a bed in front of their cottage at Bowatte when they were killed by a terrorist grenade. E.A. Bandu Menike who was crying her heart out said her parents who had decided to return to their home in the adjoining farmstead had been killed. I told them to stay with me, but they preferred to go home. The terrorists came from the direction of Thoppigala. The attack on Welikanda was at 0315 hours (local time). "We are farmers but we cannot cultivate our fields due to terrorists. We now work as itinerant labourers" she said sobbing uncontrollably.

I met 16 year old Rohana Perera's mother at the Welikanda morgue. She was weeping bitterly. "My son Rohana went to spend the night with two friends in our neighbours house. The terrorists killed him" she told me.

A silver haired grandmother of about 75 lay on the floor of the morgue at the Welikanda hospital. She had been shot dead.

All the victims had been shot dead or killed with katty's and in a number of cases both.

Most of the homes were riddled with bullets and splattered with blood.

One woman had been heaving her weight to prevent the terrorists forcing open her door, but a hail of gunfire put paid to her efforts. The terrorists killed her and her two little mites [as received].

From my discussions with military officials on the spot and the villagers of Mangala Oya and Bowatte it was evident that both the attacks originated from the thick jungles of Thoppigala, the centre of LTTE activity in the Batticaloa District in close proximity to what is known as the "Rice Bowl of Batticaloa".

Colombo Tense; Mobs Lynch 2 Tamils

BK2110150195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 21 Oct 95

[Report by Anosh Ahamath]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 21 (AFP) — Police clamped a night curfew on the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Saturday [21 October] amid mounting communal tension caused by a Tamil guerrilla massacre of 66 ethnic Sinhalese, officials said.

The curfew went into effect as Sinhalese mobs lynched two Tamil men in the capital in an apparent revenge attack for Friday's Tamil Tiger bombing of Colombo's main oil reserves, police said.

"There is a lot of tension. There are thugs armed with sticks roaming the streets," a resident near the bombed Kolonnawa oil storage depot said by telephone.

Police said that two civilians from the minority Tamil community were "beaten to death" in the capital by residents angered by the rocket attack on two oil depots carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Meanwhile, a by-stander was killed and at least six others wounded in crossfire as sporadic gun-battles broke out between security forces and gunmen trapped in cordon-and-search operations, officials said.

At least 22 security personnel and seven LTTE cadres were killed in the attacks Friday.

Four specialist fire-fighters from India joined in Saturday in an attempt to control huge fires that continued for a second straight day at the two oil depots.

Mobs in Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte, where the second oil fire was raging, accompanied security forces conducting cordon-and-search operation and said they wanted to deal with LTTE suspects nabbed in the search.

"At one point we saw cars being stopped by young men and identities of those inside being checked," a witness said.

However, police chief W. B. Rajaguru appealed for calm and said the situation had been brought under control in the capital.

Elsewhere in the capital, residents ventured out to stock up on provisions and vehicles formed long queues outside filling stations for petrol and diesel amid fears of fuel shortages caused by the devastation to the oil depots.

Adding to the tension caused by the bomb attacks here were street battles near the oil storage facilities and a rebel massacre of 66 Sinhalese villagers including women and children in eastern Sri Lanka on Saturday, officials said.

Hundreds of LTTE militants armed with knives and machetes carried out pre-dawn raids on the remote villages of Kollakanawadiya, Kambiliyaya and Mangalagama and hacked to death victims as they slept, military officials said.

"They were pre-dawn attacks and they show the desperation of the terrorists. The Tigers are now reverting to massacres because of the military pressure on them," spokesman, Sarath Munasinghe told AFP.

Opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe said he believed the LTTE wanted to provoke a backlash against Tamils by massacring civilians from the majority Sinhalese community.

"The LTTE would very much like a backlash," he said. "For them, that is the best way to force the army to withdraw troops from the north. This is a national crisis and we must help maintain law and order." Wickremesinghe said.

Douglas Devananda, a rival Tamil leader, who recently escaped an assassination bid by the LTTE, said the rebel attacks were aimed at "instigating communal clashes." Devananda also urged people to remain calm.

The LTTE killing of 13 Sinhalese soldiers in July 1983 sparked ethnic riots here, leaving at least 400, mostly Tamils, dead.

The 1983 ethnic riots have now developed into a full-scale separatist conflict with the LTTE vowing to set up an indendependent nation in the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils.

LTTE Attack on Colombo Oil Depot Reported

BK2010123495 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0823 GMT 20 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 20 Oct (LANKAPUVATH) — A dark cloud of smoke hung over the northern skyline of the city of Colombo this morning. It came from a blazing fire in three fuel tanks which were set ablaze in the early hours of the morning, by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] hit squad terrorists who clad in army type uniforms fired and killed four security guards at point blank range, as they stormed the oil installation at Kolonnawa, a suburb, north of Colombo.

But, the LTTE had missed their main targets which were the petrol tanks and instead set fire to two kerosene and one crude diesel oil tank.

Senior superintendent of police Henry Perera said 28 security forces personnel and two terrorists were reported killed in the fighting while four terrorists were reported holed up in the complex, but surrounded by the security forces. Three Tigers have been arrested. A list containing the names of 19 Tiger hit squad terrorists was also seized. One of the suspects, the truck driver had confessed to the police that his vehicle had transported the group of terrorists who had attacked the oil installation from Kilinochchi in northern Sri Lanka on the instruction of one Jegan, said DIG [Deputy Inspector General of police] (Colombo) H.M.G.B. Kotakadeniya. The hit squad had stayed in a house at Pitakotte and travelled in a van for the attack.

The city fire brigade reported at noon Friday that firefighters were fighting the fires with foam compound and brought them under control and prevented the fires from spreading.

Meanwhile, the Indian government is sending 25,000 pounds of aqua foam compound to extinguish the fire to help fight the fire on a special flight which is due to reach Colombo Friday afternoon.

Two burning kerosene and one diesel oil tanks lit up the city sky in flaming orange at 0115 hours (local time) Friday, billowing clouds of smoke.

The Kolonnawa oil installations have long been a target of the LTTE.

Senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH that this morning's bombing of the oil installations was obviously designed to take the heat off Tigers who have lost over 200 killed and 450 wounded in "Operation Riviresa" of the Sri Lankan security forces major offensive to retake the Jaffna Peninsula from the LTTE.

Security sources said that as the Tiger hit squad stormed in with their guns blazing four guards, and two terrorists were shot dead in the initial round of fighting. [sentence as received]

The BBC's Colombo correspondent George Arney who moved to the scene to video tape the blaze, reportedly received a gunshot injury when he was caught in the crossfire and is now warded at the Army Hospital in Colombo. He was reported out of danger.

Four LTTE Tigers are reported holed up in the oil installation and surrounded by government troops.

Meanwhile, the police found a truck containing Tiger weapons, including a 66 mm rocket launcher, ammunition, a suicide bomber's jacket and explosives close to the scene of the daring Tiger attack on the oil installations.

Deputy minister of Defence Anuruddha Ratwatte and opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe appealed to the nation over radio and TV for people to remain calm.

Mr. Ratwatte said there was no cause for panic. The petrol tanks had not been damaged and there were adequate stocks of petrol, diesel, and kerosene in the other storage tanks.

The issue of fuel was suspended temporarily soon after the terrorist bombings in order to prevent a run on stocks at petrol stations, as long queues of vehicles formed outside filling stations to full their tanks in a wave of panic buying.

Mr. Ratwatte said normal supplies will be resumed later today.

A curfew was imposed in the Colombo, Kolonnawa, and Kelaniya areas early morning until noon, and later extended till 0400 hours (local time) Saturday. Hundreds of families living in the vicinity of the Kolonnawa and Urugodawatte left their homes in fear of being caught up in the explosion and are being given refugee in government buildings, including schools and were expected to return to their homes later today.

Parliament Briefed on Oil Fires, Attack

BK2110114395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fire brigade and the security division of the Kolonnawa oil storage complex say that the fire has been considerably brought under control to a considerable degree.

A spokesman from the division told the SLBC early this morning that there is no danger to the complex or the surrounding areas. The crisis situation resulting from the fire has been completely eliminated. The experts who arrived from India last night and the local fire brigade have brought the situation almost totally under control. The fire brigade is using the fire fighting chemical, acqufoam compound, at the storage tank to put out the fire. He said that they expected to completely extinguish the flames by this evening.

Acting Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte has submitted a full report on the terrorist attack at the Kolonnawa oil storage complex. He told parliament yesterday that according to intelligence service, seven terrorists mounted this attack. Three had entered the Kolonnawa complex and attacked the security officers. The all three terrorists were killed in the confrontation; two others had surrendered to the forces; another two who were hiding in the premises were arrested last afternoon. Some persons who provided accommodation to the terrorists have been arrested by the forces at Thandikulam in Vavuniya when they tried to flee to Jaffna. He informed the house that the offensive in Jaffna has not been affected by the incident.

Twenty more terrorists were killed during the Operation Riviresa in the north of Sri Lanka. The troops continued their advance. According to the operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry, the security forces were able to achieve their objective by Thursday [19 October] afternoon. There was not much resistance by the LTTE terrorists. It is assumed that they have fallen back from the area due to heavy casualties. However, small groups intermittently confronted the troops. As a result of Thursday's fighting, nine soldiers were killed. At present, troops are in the process of consolidating their position in the recently captured areas while continuing their operation.

Fires Extinguished

BK2210130495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The blaze at the Kolonnawa oil tank complex was extinguished completely by the fire brigade early this morning. Action is being taken to put out the fire at Urugodawatte crude oil storage tanks as well. Indian experts hailed the commitment of the Sri Lankan fire brigade which doused the fire within 48 hours. Aquafoam brought from India was used to extinguish the blaze. The chairman of the Petroleum Corporation told the SLBC that repairs of the Kolonnawa oil tank complex will begin shortly.

Prime Minister Calls For Calm

BK2110162395 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 21 Oct 95

[Quotation marks as received — received via internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike in a statement issued regarding Friday's [20 October] tragic incident at Orugodawatte and Kolonnawa petroleum storage tanks urged the public to remain calm, act with patience and a sense of brotherhood at this critical moment.

"While all steps are being taken to restore normalcy, I appeal to the citizens of this country not to be misled by rumours and other mischievous talk by certain elements to incite communal feelings", she said.

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's statement: "I wish to express my deepest sympathy to my countrymen living in and around Kolonnawa who have suffered tremendous hardships and inconvenience due to the tragic incidents which took place during the early hours of Friday morning.

"While the government acting with a sense of responsibility is taking all necessary steps to ensure the welfare of the people, it is essential that the citizens of this country should co-operate and act with restraint to ensure the success of these efforts.

"I wish to request all sections of the people to remain calm and act with patience and a sense of brotherhood at this critical moment.

"While all steps are being taken to restore normalcy in the lives of the people, I appeal to the citizens of this country not to be misled by rumours and other mischievous talk by certain elements to incite communal feelings.

I earnestly request my countrymen to give their fullest support to the armed forces and the police in their task to maintain law and order.

May the blessings of the Triple Gem be on you all."

Official: Fuel To Be Freely Available

BK2310083895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 23 Oct 95

[Report by By T. Sabaratnam—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Petroleum fuel will be freely available countrywide within the next few days, Acting Power and Energy secretary Thilak Ranaviraja said.

"The damage is not that serious as we thought", he said referring to Friday [20 October] morning's fire at Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte oil storage facilities.

He said three of the four storage tanks at Orugodawatte and three of the 45 tanks at Kolonnawa had been burnt and the loss which amounted to 20 percent of the total stocks is about Rs. [rupees] 1.5 billion (US$ 30 million).

Mr. Ranaviraja said the main oil pipeline was not damaged. The pipelines used for filling rail wagons and the ones leading to the filling points had been damaged.

"The problem we are facing is not with stocks but with distribution. We hope to put that right in the next few days", he said.

Sri Lanka's daily need for petroleum products is 2,500 tonnes of diesel, 600 tonnes of petrol and 500 tonnes of kerosene.

The stocks in hand will last a month and a decision to import fresh stocks will be taken later, Mr. Ranaviraja said. [passage omitted]

Daily Views Attack on Oil Installations

BK2110160895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 21 Oct 95

[Editorial: 'Friday's Lessons' — received via internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yesterday's terrorist attack on the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's oil storage facilities has lessons for us all. In the first place, nobody should have been caught by surprise by the fact that there has been a response in Colombo as the heat is being turned on by the security forces in the Tigers' northern stronghold of Jaffna. While the LTTE has not claimed responsibility for what happened at Kolonnawa tank farm and the crude oil storage facility at Orugodawatte, it will be hard to find anybody who will not attribute the strike to the Tigers.

Secondly, the panic that was swiftly created as the word of a serious incident occurring spread must be carefully analysed. [sentence as received] It was natural that those living in the neighbourhood of the fire would have feared that it would spread and fled their homes. By 3 a.m. yesterday there were people carrying babies, bags and baggage seen on the roads several miles away from the scene of the fire. It was unfortunate that some wrong information that the Sapugaskande oil refinery was on fire should have been beamed by a private television and radio station. Rupavahini and SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] as well as the culprits themselves later corrected these inaccurate reports which undoubtedly caused a reaction.

It is easy enough for anybody to make a mistake but what happened yesterday should be a lesson to all that the desire to be the first with the latest must be tempered by the need for ensuring accuracy. Unlike the print media, radio and television can beam a story almost instantly and their reach too is tremendous. It was fortunate that the blast went off in the dead of night when most people were asleep and would not have been having their radio or television sets on. Nevertheless, those in the neighbourhood were able to see and hear what happened and as the bush telegraph that inevitably operates in such circumstances got into gear, a great many others saw the night sky lit up by the flames from several kilometres away.

The lines of cars formed very quickly outside the few petrol filling stations in Colombo offering an all night service and some motorists hopefully even queued outside sheds that do not offer such a facility. Both Rupavahini and SLBC deserve to be congratulated for quickly getting their act together and getting accurate information out of the country. It was necessary that people should know that a curfew had been imposed, that there was no danger of the blaze spreading from the tanks that were burning to others, that the refinery was safe, that those who fled their homes in the Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte areas were being cared for and, most importantly, that what had happened was not nearly as bad as originally feared and rumoured.

Merely because one situation was being brought under control, it does not mean that another cannot arise. The numbers deployed on the oil installation attacks were believed to have been about twenty as this is being written. Going by the extent of damage they caused in the shooting that followed the explosion, even granting that some of the casualties on the government side were victims of crossfire, that estimate does not seem unrealistic. At least two of the attackers or their back-ups have been killed, the first reports said. That would imply that others may have got away. This is why it is essential that a maximum security alert is continued. In that context, the curfew that was first declared till 12 noon and thereafter extended till 4 this morning was salutary. Congregation of crowds anywhere would have been unsafe in the aftermath of Friday's terror.

Once the wild rumours were scotched, many of those who fled their homes began returning. The terrorists would naturally have wanted not only to cause the maximum damage to an economic target but also get spin-off benefits by creating panic, chaos and widespread disorder. It is to the credit of our people that while there was natural apprehension among those living in the vicinity of the fire, the vast majority kept their cool and acted sensibly making the task of the authorities much easier than it otherwise might have been. It was a good thing that petrol stations were ordered to close because the inevitable, perhaps quite unnecessary, run on stocks, would have given the wrong signals.

At times like this it is essential that ordinary people extend the maximum possible cooperation to the law enforcers who are already stretched because of the needs of maximising guard at vulnerable points and providing VIP security. Scrambling around for curfew passes for non-essential purposes and not staying at home only imposes additional burdens on the authorities. Civic consciousness must be highest at times like this and the public must be alert to any suspicious goings-on in their own neighbourhood. The police cannot be everywhere that people are and that is why each and everyone of us must think and act like a policeman.

Sporadic Gun Battles Erupt in Colombo

BK2110090695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 21 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 21 (AFP) — At least one civilian was killed and several others wounded Saturday [21 October] in sporadic gun-battles between security forces and Tamil rebels trapped here after the rebels blew up oil tanks here, witnesses said.

Six civilians were caught in the crossfire and were admitted to the main hospital here with gunshot wounds, witnesses said. One of the wounded died of his injuries, hospital sources said.

Sporadic shooting erupted when security forces launched cordon-and-search operations in the capital to root out Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gunmen who carried out the attacks on two oil storage facilities here Friday.

Two LTTE squads blew up tanks at the Kolonnawa oil depot and the nearby Orugodawatte crude oil complex, killing at least 22 security personnel and causing huge fires. At least four LTTE cadres were also killed in the battles.

Security forces came under fire from gunmen trapped in a cordon- and-search operation near the Orugodawatte tank complex. "We believe they took part in the attack (on the complex)," a police officer said.

Tension rose in the area when dozens of angry residents carrying wooden poles and sticks said they wanted to deal with any suspects taken into custody by security forces.

"Angry mobs were held back by police. They wanted to lynch any person who was thought to be a Tiger," said a witness at the scene of a cordon-and search operation near Orugodawatte.

Many residents of Orugodawatte and Kolonnawa said they did not want to return home because they feared LTTE guerrillas had occupied the houses they had vacated just after the attacks.

A citywide curfew that was imposed shortly after Friday's LTTE attack was lifted at dawn Saturday but security forces maintained tight security on key roads leading to Colombo and outside key government installations.

Police chief W. B. Rajaguru said that security forces had the situation under control in the capital and appealed for calm, urging people not to be misled by rumours.

"Spreading rumours will obstruct investigations now underway. Certain groups were trying to incite the people and create panic," Rajaguru said.

The LTTE killing of 13 soldiers from the majority Sinhalese community in 1983 led to ethnic riots here, leaving at least 400, mostly minority Tamils, dead.

Since then the LTTE had stepped up its campaign for a separate state in the northern and eastern regions for the two million Tamils.

President Urges People To Act With Restraint

BK2210130295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga appealed to all communities to act with restraint and responsibility to maintain law and order in the country without falling prey to rumors and instigations at a time when the security forces are engaged in major offensive to flush out LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] tigers. She says that she had received information on the attack on the Kolonnawa oil facility before her departure to the United States to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations.

The president says that she had instructed relevant ministers and officers to take immediate action to maintain law and order in the country. She further points out that the aim of the violent activities of the separatists is to incite communal feelings and to disrupt with day-to-day life as well as economy. She condoled the security forces personnel who sacrificed their lives in this unfortunate incident.

'Text' of Statement on LTTE Danger

BK2310065695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 23 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga, in a statement made on the eve of her departure to UN sessions on Friday [20 October] warned the people of the possible danger of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] relying on the politics of terror and murder to achieve its ends.

"I feel it is opportune to bring to your notice a possible danger that confronts us at present. The LTTE which has displayed terrorist tendencies throughout their existence may increasingly rely on the politics of terror and murder to achieve their ends. It cannot be denied that this threat faces those of all communities who stand for democracy, peace and justice," she said.

The President urged the people to be vigilant and mindful of this danger that may lie in any part of the land.

"The government is aware of the grave responsibility to protect and preserve the lives and property of all citizens. We will make all effort to fulfil this duty," Mrs Kumaratunga said.

She also asked why the LTTE is fighting a government that has not only displayed its readiness to recognise the rights of the Tamil people, but has laid the foundation for the implementation of remedial political measures.

The following is the text of her statement:

"The efforts of my government to end the tragic war that has ravaged our country for more than 12 years and to usher in a new era where all persons can live with contentment as members of a peaceful society, are well known to every one of you.

Our peace program was not undertaken in order to further narrow political interests. In actual fact, we strongly believe that persons of all races in Sri Lanka can live happy, contented lives only if peace is achieved and safeguarded. It is this belief that has sustained us in our quest for peace in the face of the probability that, politically our activities could be detrimental to us.

Your invaluable vote which gave us a resounding mandate, to marshal the forces of Government to further this search for peace. Although we were fully aware of the nature of the LTTE, we undertook negotiations with them because of our understanding of the prevalent realities in Jaffna. We were able, for even a short period to make a success of our peace effort pursuant to the cessation of hostilities agreement reached on January 8, of this year. You know how, April 19, the LTTE unilaterally broke that agreement and unreasonably recommenced the war.

However honest our commitment to peace, however strong our resolve if war is forced upon us, we as a responsible government cannot and will not refrain from taking retaliatory action. It is for this reason that at this moment our armed forces are engaged in a new operation known as Rivirasa.

I wish to convey to the members of the armed forces who are engaged in this conflict, sacrificing valuable young lives, my heartfelt gratitude and that of the entire nation. The whole nation is inestimably proud of the depth of your commitment. We are forever indebted to those parents who have sacrificed their children in order to build a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka.

We are well aware of the difficulties and sufferings faced by the armed forces who are prosecuting the war, with an unshakable commitment, while others living lives of luxury in the metropolis spout hollow utterances about the war and the ethnic problem. As a mother, I can well appreciate the suffering undergone by our youth in the forces. We are determined to save you from this plight, to build a tomorrow in which you can live a normal life with your parents, brothers, sisters and friends. We are determined to build a Sri Lanka where your courage and talents can be mobilised towards rebuilding our nation. I am certain that day will dawn in the very near future.

I must also state, with assurance, that this war is fought to remove the obstacles to peace and is not, in any way, against the Tamil people.

Our many friends in the international community recognise us as a government that is waging a battle to ensure peace, a government that has been compelled to fight through wholeheartedly committed to peace.

Our government is not one with war intentions. But when war is thrust upon us, when we are called upon to do battle in the name of justice and peace, our commitment, resolve and strength of purpose is second to none.

It is now clear that the war fought for the past 12 years was not fought with the intention of winning. Our forces are now being deployed in accordance with well defined, practical strategies, we have given them the benefit of armaments, denied up to now to them, which are essential if they are to successfully conclude their efforts on the battle field. When the resolve and strength of purpose of our soldiers is combined to this victory is not far away.

A regrettable feature of any armed conflict is the suffering that normal citizens have to undergo. We are fully cognizant of this. For this reason, the armed forces have been given clear instructions to ensure the safety of all civilians and to constantly guard against harm that could be caused to them during operations. We have set up a special task force to investigate and provide urgent relief measures to civilians in case of harm.

Even while engaged in the war our conviction that the ethnic problem should be solved by means of a political solution is unshaken. It is for this reason that, after the commencement of hostilities we presented our proposals embodying a political solution, sometimes which no other government has done. Every Tamil group and political party, other than the LTTE is now in the process of studying our proposals. It is only the LTTE and the extremist Sinhalese elements have rejected the proposals outright without even subjecting them to a cursory examination and evaluation.

Why is the LTTE fighting against a government that has not only displayed its readiness to recognise the rights of the Tamil people, but has laid the foundation for the implementation of remedial political measures?

I feel it is opportune to bring to your notice a possible danger that confronts as at present. The LTTE which has displayed terrorist tendencies throughout their existence may increasingly rely on the politics of terror and murder to achieve their ends. It cannot be denied that this threat faces those of all communities who stand for democracy, peace and justice.

I urge you to be vigilant and mindful of this danger that may lie in any part of the land. The government is aware of its grave responsibility to protect and preserve the lives and prosperity of all citizens. We will make every effort to fulfill this duty.

At this time when we as a nation faces its most serious challenge, there is one appeal I wish to make to you. Let us at this juncture not think of individual gain, personal profit or how best to obtain greater privileges for ourselves, but instead let us think of the commitment we should make for the nation.

Our government has, during its first year in office, taken many steps to alleviate the problems of various sections of society and other measures for the nation as a whole. In this time of travail let us stop asking what we can get for ourselves. Even at this late juncture let us now unite with honesty and strength of purpose to bring peace and prosperity to Sri Lanka".

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